BESM

Revolutionary Girl UTENA

THE ROSE COLLECTION

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UTENA

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The Essential Role-Playing and Reference Guide to

REVOLUTIONARY GIRL UTENA

Book #1, Covers Episodes 1-13

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BESM
ROLE-PLAYING GAME SOURCEBOOK

GUARDIANS OF ORDER, INC
秩序護衛

ISBN 1-894525-80-9
9 781894 525800
Product No. #02-917
$19.95 US
$25.95 CAN

2-3	Introduction
5-55	Episode Summaries
58-75	Characters
76-79	The World of Revolutionary Girl Utena
81-107	BESM Game Material
111	Index

Revolutionary Girl Utena: Book 1

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First Printing — August 2004

Printed in China

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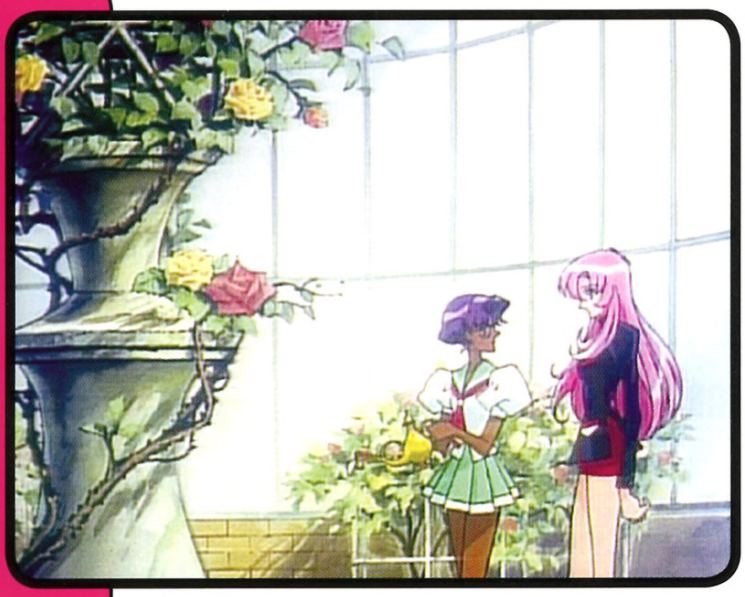
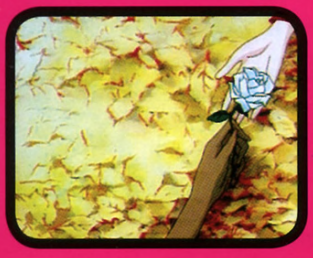
ISBN 1-894525-80-9
Product Number 02-917



About Revolutionary Girl Utena

Revolutionary Girl Utena (*Shoujo Kakumei Utena*) is an enormously popular *Shoujo*-style anime from the studio that created *Sailor Moon*, and has gained a cult following in North America. It started in Japan as a *manga* written and illustrated by Chiho Saito. The success of the original manga led to the first anime series, and later, to the movie *The Adolescence of Utena*. Videotape and DVD versions of *Revolutionary Girl Utena* were released in the United States and Canada by Software Sculptors and Enoki Films. This book covers the first season.



Revolutionary Girl Utena was released as *shoujo manga* in Japan. *Shoujo manga* is "girls" *manga*. Where *shounen* ("boys") *manga* focuses on action-adventure with action emphasized over plot, *shoujo manga* is concerned with emotions, feelings, plots, character development and moods. It is designed, marketed, and sold primarily to girls and women.

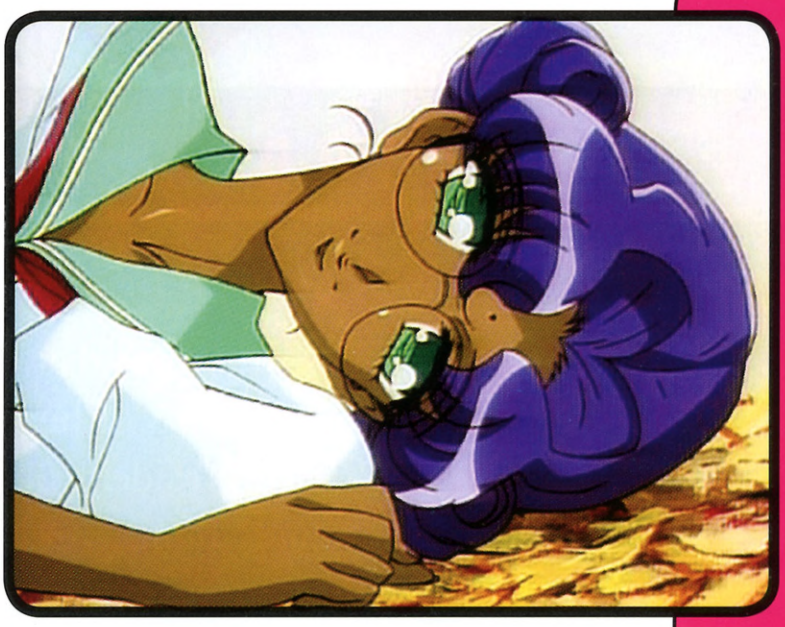
Modern *shoujo manga* is written for girls and women by girls and women. It focuses on romance, friendships, and family. It is often set at middle school or high school, and deals with typical problems for that setting: teachers, school, peers, first loves, boyfriends, and girlfriends. The detailed relationships are not strictly heterosexual; several manga deal with relationships between two boys and, as the Japanese culture becomes more permissive, two girls.

Utena is a *mahou shoujo*, or "magical girl," sub-genre of shoujo manga. The main character has a power from a secretive magical source, such as a magic crystal or a magic item. *Mahou shoujo* features repetitive transformation sequences, magical battles, and easily recognisable attacks.

More specifically, Utena is part of the *mahou shoujo* anime sub-genre — which rose to popularity in the 1980s, and was marketed to an older, adult audience . It distinguishes itself from other *shoujo manga* by different, yet familiar tropes: rebellious young girl, emotionally mature plotlines, inter-gender battles, and more action. This adult magical girl anime is shorter in duration with a more pointed story line than its youth-oriented counterpart. Most, like Utena, have no more than 40 original episodes,

encapsulating one complete storyline. Utena uses the generic trappings of a *mahou* "magical girl" *shoujo* to explore the adult themes of sexuality, love, and leaving behind adolescence.

A popular motif that appears in *shoujo* — and overwhelmingly in both the Utena *manga* and anime — is that of flowers. Flowers tell the mood of the scene, identify the heroine, and expresses how one character feels about another. The roses of *Revolutionary Girl Utena* are a bold and sensual allegory of Utena moving from childhood to adulthood.



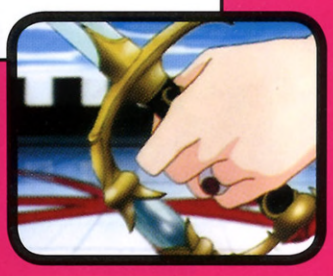
Episode Guide

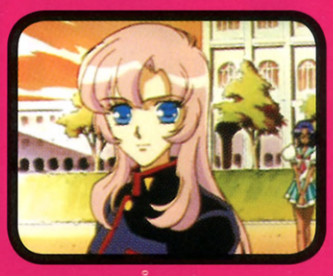
Utena Tenjou is just a normal, if outgoing and athletic, girl, despite her insistence on wearing a Prince-like boy's uniform. She came to Ohtori Academy to find her mysterious prince. One day, her parents died in an accident, and her Prince gave her a ring with a Rose Seal. He told her to never lose her nobility. So enamoured was Utena of her Prince that she decided to become a Prince herself.

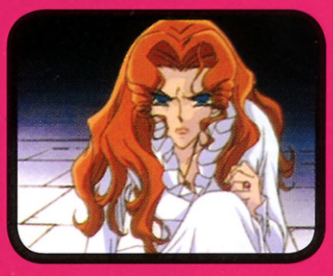
When her best friend Wakaba is insulted by Kyoichi Saionji, vice president of the Student Council, Utena steps into a world of plots, counter-plots, magic and sword duels beneath a mysterious building, the Castle Where Eternity Dwells. She lifts her sword and duels Saionji for the honour of her friend. Only at the end of the duel does Utena learn the prize: the girl Anthy Himemya, the strange Rose Bride. The champion of the duels is considered to be "engaged" to the Rose Bride, and has a chance to enter the castle to gain the power of miracles.

Utena finds herself befriending — and fighting — the members of the Student Council, who are, in turn, directed by the shadowy End of the World through mysterious letters. They desire the Rose Bride to break the world's shell and bring about the revolution of the world. Utena faces them one at a time: the obsessive Kyoichi Saionji, the cold Jury Arisugawa, the musical Miki Kaoru, the wealthy playboy Touga Kiryuu, and the ever-scheming Nanami Kiryuu, who cares nothing for the duels, only for her brother's attention.

Utena stumbles when she begins to confuse Touga for her prince, and finds she cannot fight her true love. Once she finds herself with the help of her friend Wakaba, however, Utena triumphs over Touga and stands, unchallenged, as the Duellist victor.

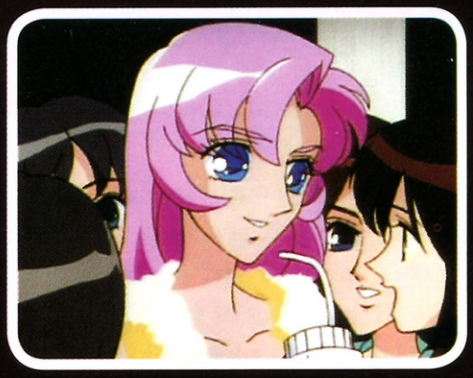






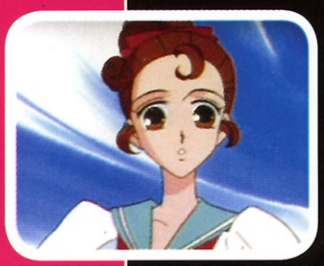
Revolutionary Girl

UTENA



EPISODE: 01

EPISODE 1: THE ROSE BRIDE



On the first day of school at Ohtori Academy, Utena dreams of her Prince, while Wakaba desires the vice president of the Student Council, Kyoichi Saionji. Saionji rejects Wakaba and posts her love letter on the announcement board. Insulted, Utena challenges Saionji to a duel after school. Much to Utena's surprise, however, the duels are real.

On the first day of school at the prestigious Ohtori Academy, Wakaba Shinohara waits for her "boyfriend." Classmates tease Wakaba as they pass by about waiting for a female Prince who already left the dorms for class. Wakaba runs off to find her true love. The boyfriend, of course, is Utena Tenjou

Utena is resplendent on her first day of class in her boy's uniform and red running shorts. While walking through the halls of Ohtori Academy, the school councillor stops Utena and accosts her in the hallway. "Do you intend to go around wearing that weird getup this year as well?" the councillor demands. Utena merely shrugs. If the uniform is good enough for the boys, it is good enough for her. Besides, the school has no regulations against a girl wearing a boy's uniform. Utena walks off with a smile.

Utena isn't an ordinary girl. She's athletic and popular with the other girls. She easily defeats the boys at basketball. She's so good that the head of the boy's varsity basketball team asks her to join, but she turns him down. When he asks her why she wears the boys' uniform when she doesn't want to play ball with the boys, Utena casually remarks, "To be a prince. I want to be a noble prince who saves Princesses."

Later, walking away from the basketball court, Utena smells something strange in the air. She turns a corner and leans out a window to spy the Rose Garden, a tall cage made of glass and white steel. Within, a dark haired girl tends the roses. "The scent of roses," Utena comments, "Why does the scent of roses always make me think of the past?"

Just as Utena turns from the rose garden, she notices the girl

and a tall, green-haired boy have a fight. The boy cruelly slaps the girl while another boy, tall and handsome, approaches. Utena cannot just stand and watch someone being abused, but as she is about to act, Wakaba pounces her from behind.

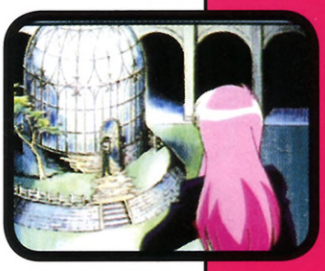
After some tussling, Utena quizzes Wakaba about the small group at the entrance of the rose garden. Wakaba identifies the three as Kyoichi Saionji, Touga Kiryuu, and Anthy Himemya, members of the Student Council. Wakaba thinks Anthy is strange, but the tall, handsome, green-haired Saionji is really something. Utena assumes Anthy is dating Saionji, and teases Wakaba mercilessly while the little group at the Rose Garden disperses.

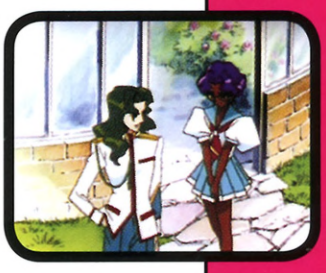
Later that afternoon, the Student Council convenes in their secret meeting place — an open walled room at the top of a tower. Touga chastises Saionji: "We who wear the Rose Seal are all chosen members, and we don't want you to forget the most important rule we must follow." Touga accuses Saionji of abusing the Rose Bride, and reminds him engagement does not give him liberty to treat the Rose Bride poorly. If End of the World finds out about this, he won't let it go lightly.

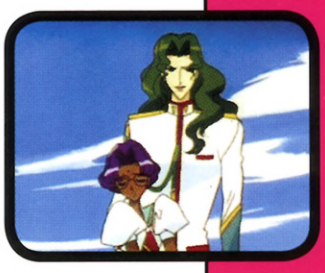
Saionji brushes off Touga's warnings. He sniffs. "And if you are so concerned about the rules of the Rose Seal, you may challenge me for the Rose Bride."

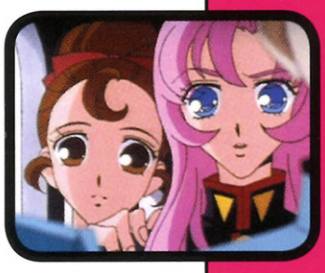
Back in the school hallway, Wakaba admires Utena's Rose Seal, and asks her about its origins. A handsome prince gave it to Utena when she was very young. He told her: "This ring I give to you will lead you to me one day." What that meant, Utena does not know.

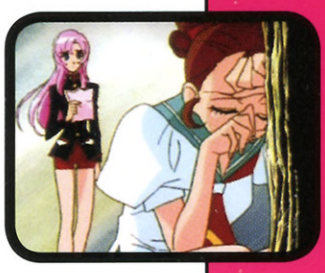
Their conversation ends when they spot large numbers of students gathering around the announcement board. Utena elbows through the crowd and tears down the focus of their entertainment: a love letter. As she starts to chastise people for gawking, Wakaba runs away sobbing. Utena leaves the

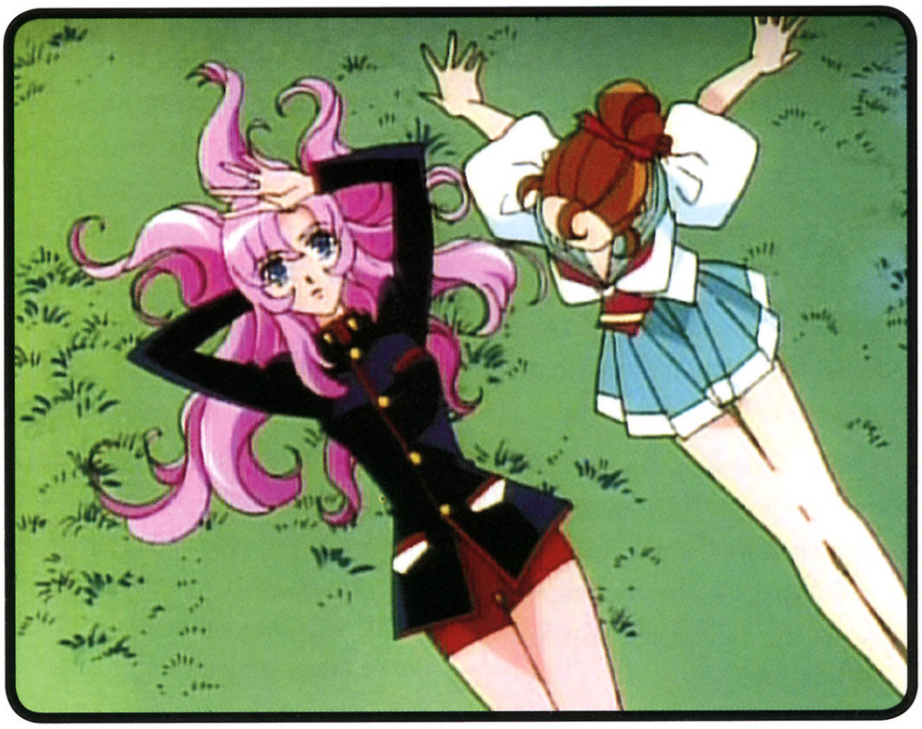


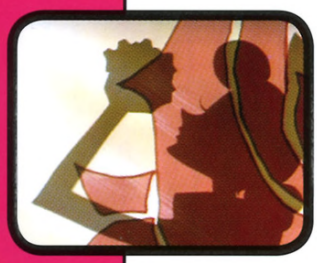


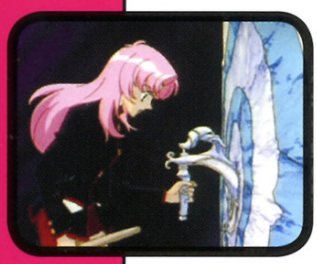


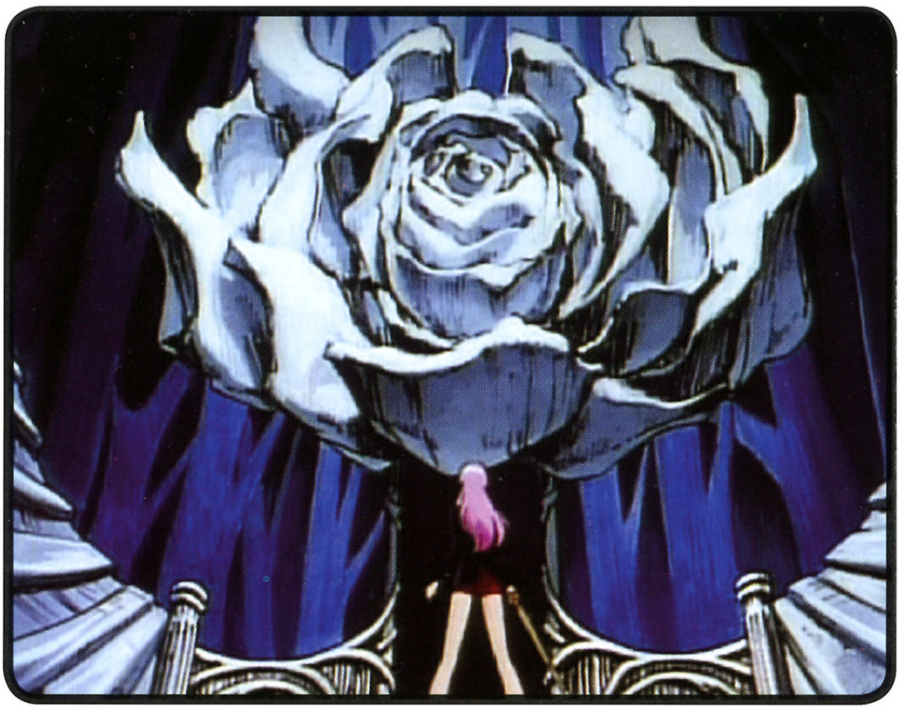












gathering and swiftly catches up to her friend. She gently asks Wakaba about the letter. Learning the letter was a love note from Wakaba to Saionji, Utena swears vengeance.

Later in the kendo practice room, Utena confronts Saionji, letter in hand. Saionji sniffs, and claims haughtily that he threw the letter away – the stupid, childish letter. When Utena waves it in his face, Saionji shrugs. He felt it would be nice to give everyone a laugh. Utena shouts, "You're the kendo team captain, right? I want to duel with you after school!"

Saionji starts to laugh, but he stops as he spots the Rose Seal on Utena's finger. He composes himself. "You must be the new challenger," he says. He accepts her challenge, and tells her to meet him at the arena in the forest.

The Shadow Girls speak. "Have you heard the news? There's going to be a duel in the forest after school! Oh great hero! There are rules in the forest! Do you know what they are?"

Utena carries a kendo sword to the gate of the forest. At first, she's confused by the strange lock on the door, but a drop of water hits her ring and the gates invitingly swing inward. She climbs the long spiral stairs and steps into the fighting arena. She looks up into the sky and asks, "How can a castle be floating in mid-air?"

Saionji awaits Utena on the duelling platform beneath the castle. Utena asks Saionji about it, and he dismisses it as a mirage. Saionji, in turn, asks his own question about Utena's Rose Seal, while holding up his own. Utena is confused. Saionji beckons Anthy forward, and she appears at his side in an elaborate red dress.

Utena wonders why Anthy is at the duel, and Saionji sneers, saying that it's her place to be there. Anthy approaches both duellists, and pins roses to their chests. "If the rose is knocked off your chest, you lose the duel," Anthy says in a sing-song voice. She wishes Utena luck.

For her wish, Saionji slaps Anthy across the face. Anthy tries to placate Saionji by calling him master. To Utena, he explains that Anthy does whatever he orders. Bored with the drama and eager to fight, Saionji says, "Come, let's begin." The duellists take positions.

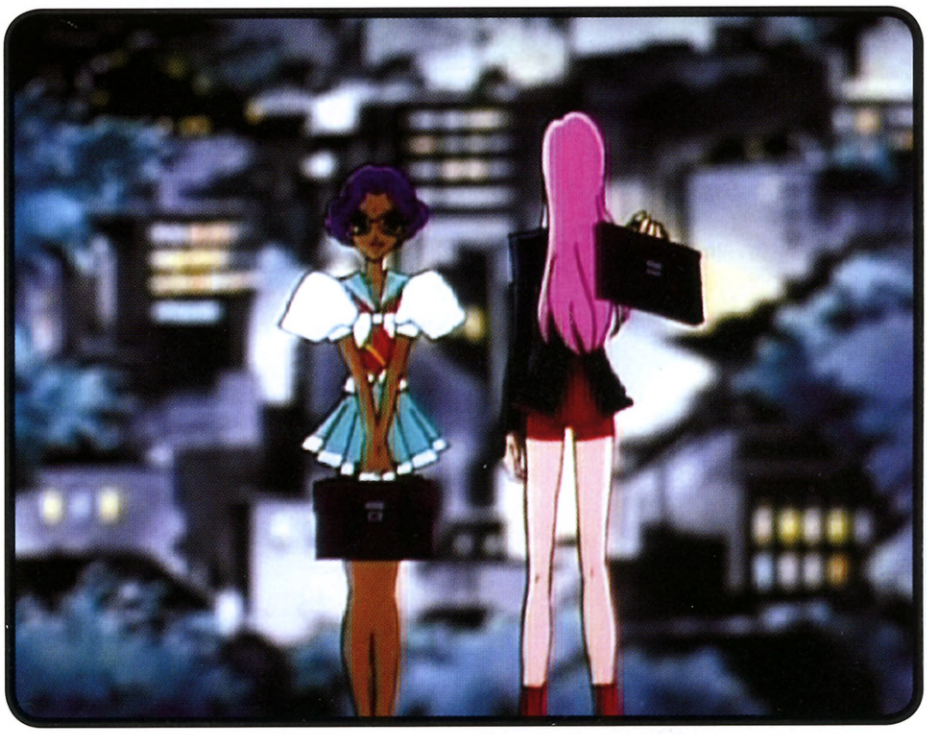
Anthy begins the duel by summoning the power of Dios. Saionji draws the sword from Anthy's chest and yells, "Grant me the power to bring the world revolution!" The school bells ring.

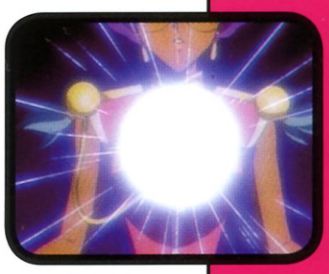
The pair begin duelling, Utena with her practice wooden kendo sword, Saionji with the Sword of Dios. She manages to hold off his attacks, but all Saionji does is sneer at her. "You're not too bad for a girl. Trying to be the Prince who saves the damsel in distress?"

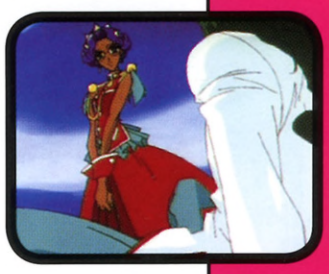
Despite the odd appearance of everything, Utena does not realise that Saionji's sword is real — until it slices through her practice sword. Suddenly, she is forced to the realisation that the duel is real, a fact that shakes her confidence. Saionji sees the shock on her face, and realizes something is amiss. He reacts incredulously. "Don't tell me you don't know this sword!" Saionji says. "Who are you anyway?"

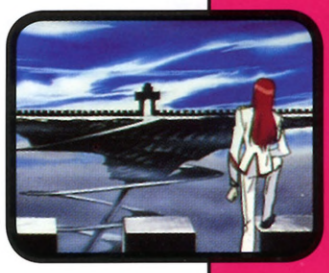
Without any weapon to speak of and shaken by the fact that Saionji could kill her, Utena is set to lose. The Soul of Dios descends from the castle and possesses her, though, giving her the spirit she needs to win. Utena charges Saionji with the broken haft of the kendo practice sword, knocking the rose from his breast. Utena wins the fight. As the two of them walk away, Anthy calls Saionji "classmate" with a small smile. The bells toll.

Touga Kiryuu, watching from the Student Council meeting platform, calls the duel an "unexpected development." He's fascinated and smitten by the new Duellist. Utena walks home, confused. She had a weird day, and she is relieved it has ended. Halfway there, Utena runs into Anthy, who calls her Miss Utena. Anthy introduces herself as the Rose Bride, to Utena's lasting confusion.









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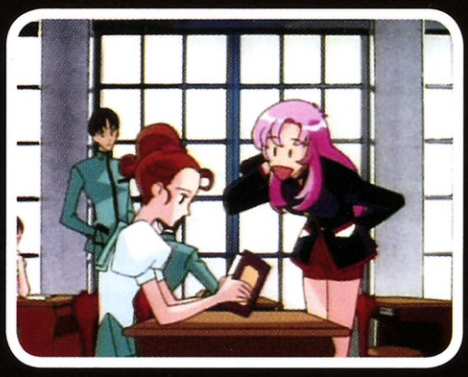
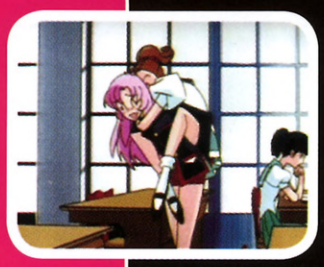
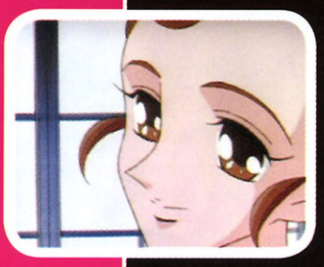
Episode: 02



Episode 2: For Whom the Rose Smiles





Utena is now engaged to Anthy Himemya, the mysterious Rose Bride. This duty carries with it a dorm reassignment, a blue monkey named Chu-Chu, a host of questions and a vice president who will not stay beaten. Saionji, obsessed with Anthy, challenges Utena to a second duel. Utena reluctantly accepts.

A fresh new morning dawns over Ohtori Academy. Utena enters the classroom with trepidation and spies Wakaba hiding behind a book. Utena considers telling Wakaba the outcome with Saionji and the duel, but instead pretends nothing happened. She asks Wakaba about the book.

At first, Wakaba doesn't respond. Utena creeps by, believing discretion is the better part of valour, when Wakaba pounces. Wakaba says the book is "Magnolia Waltz," and it's all about the girl getting the unattainable boy. She proclaims it to be the greatest book ever, before pouncing on Utena and yelling, "You're my true love! I belong to you!" just as Anthy walks into the classroom.

Elsewhere, the Student Council meets and Touga asks the group if they've all received letters from End of the World. They have, but the question of Utena comes up: is someone who does not belong to the Student Council also receiving letters from End of the World? Utena does wear the Rose Seal, but seems ignorant of the game as a whole. They argue about Utena and the nature of the duelling game, but in the end, Touga points out that the letters are specific. They cannot drop out of the game now. It's gone too far. Whoever is engaged to the Rose Bride will enter the Castle and bring revolution to the world.

Later in the day, Wakaba and Utena receive dorm assignments and lament their positions in different buildings. Utena was assigned to a strange abandoned dorm which sat empty for the last 10 years. Wakaba believes Utena's building is haunted, but Utena doesn't believe her. She says goodbye to Wakaba and goes to look for her dorm. Utena finds the dormitory on the outer edge of the grounds of Ohtori Academy. It is devoid of life. Her room is on the 2nd floor, middle room. She

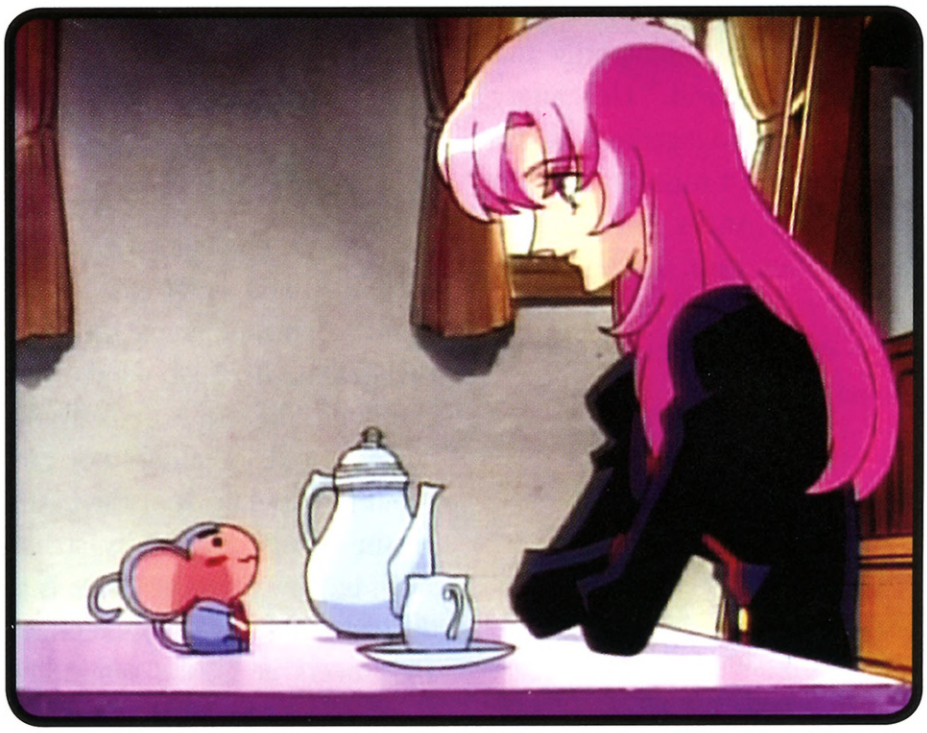
lays her hand on the knob and imagines the room beyond. Trash everywhere! The ceiling caved in! Filled with rats and bugs!

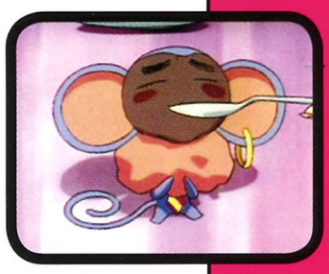
Utena pushes the door open, half afraid of what she'll find. Instead of her imagined ruin, however, it's a nice, clean double — with Anthy Himemya. Anthy is on hands and knees scrubbing the room spotless. "We'll be living together from now on," Anthy informs Utena from the floor. Anthy stands, wipes her hands, and writes her name on the door beneath Utena's in pencil, indicating that the room belongs to both of them.

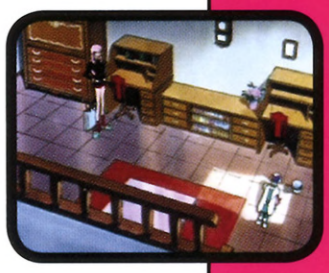
Utena senses that something is very odd here, but tries to act normally. She dismisses Anthy's assignment as her roommate as coincidence and apologises for not cleaning. Anthy knows better, however, and explains that it is deliberate: It's the rules of the Rose Seal, and Anthy is the Rose Bride. She is engaged to whichever Student Council member is the Duellist Champion — who is now Utena. Thus, they will live together now. Utena is utterly confused, and not entirely pleased about the whole situation. She tries to make the best of it, though, so as to spare Anthy's feelings.

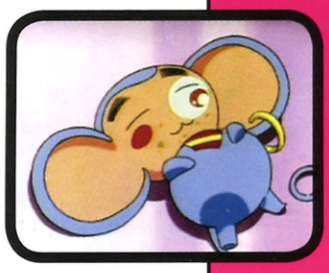
After unpacking, Utena and Anthy share tea. Curious, Utena asks about the castle and the sword. "Mysteries," Anthy says dismissively. Anthy asks Utena about the boy's uniform. Utena shrugs and says, "Because I like to." Utena feels uncomfortable around Anthy, but before she can dwell on that feeling for too long, she runs into a bizarre blue monkey-eared... thing.

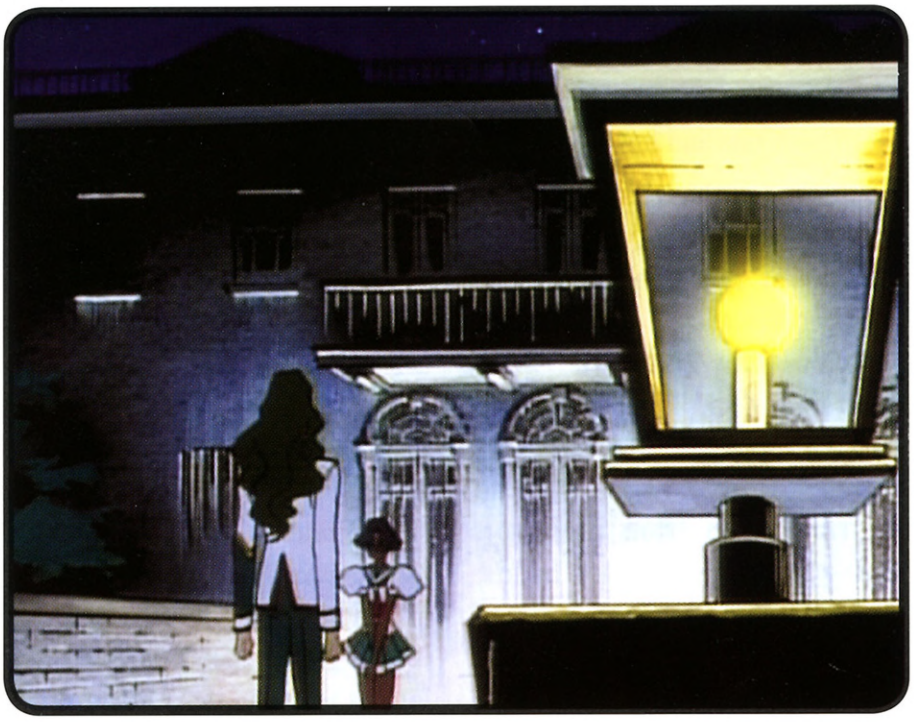
"My friend Chu-Chu," Anthy introduces. Utena thinks Chu-Chu is her pet, but Anthy corrects her. Utena plays with Chu-Chu and laughs and asks Anthy to stop calling her "Miss Utena." Calmer now, Utena, again, asks Anthy about the Rose Seal. "Whoever wears that ring is marked as a duellist," Anthy answers manner-of-factly. Those who wear seals will challenge Utena to duels for











possession of the Rose Bride. Utena responds with disbelief: she has no intention of fighting duels, and thinks the whole system is silly.

Meanwhile, Saionji is still furious over his loss. He meditates before a rack of swords to clear his head, then draws one and begins practicing. He stops only when Touga steps into the practice room. Saionji lowers his sword then, unwilling to ignore Touga to keep practicing. Touga asks if he will fight Utena again, and Saionji responds haughtily that "of course he will." He's angry, and Utena's engagement to the Rose Bride is a mistake. He does not accept Anthy belonging to anyone but him. In his anger, Saionji reveals that he and Anthy have written promises in his exchange diary.

Touga reacts with surprise. Exchange diaries are journals in which multiple individuals make entries, generally to or about the other diarists. It's something that's commonly done by elementary or junior-high students, not high school students. He is amused at Saionji's immaturity.

At dinner time, Anthy is nowhere to be seen. Utena is eating dinner alone, when Chu-Chu appears and beckons Utena outside. Utena follows, more out of curiosity than anything else. She sees Saionji and Anthy standing in the garden outside, arguing.

Outside, Saionji yells loudly at Anthy. Saionji demands to know if Anthy devoted herself to him when they were engaged. Anthy assures him she did, but that was in the past, and now, their engagement is over. Saionji smacks Anthy across the face and calls her a disgrace.

Utena emerges from the dormitory and confronts Saionji about his abuse. Saionji challenges Utena to another duel — tomorrow afternoon. She refuses and calls the duels "stupid." She does not care about the Rose Bride or the Castle or the Duels. Saionji is struck again by how ignorant Utena is of the game and the promised power and sneers at Utena, reminding

her that those who oppose the Student Council vanish from the campus. Unwilling to give up her place at Ohtori Academy and unsure if Saionji is bluffing or not, Utena looks over Anthy and then reluctantly accepts the challenge.

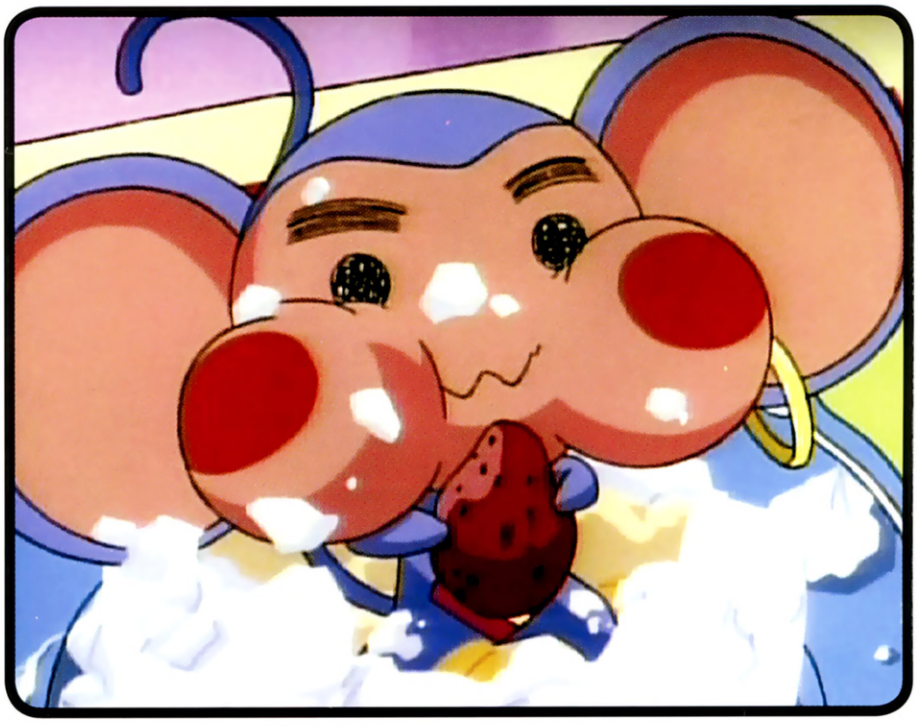
Back inside, Anthy asks Utena, "Didn't you say you weren't going to fight any more duels?" Utena feels she has no choice. She is determined to free herself from this insanity, however, and so decides to rid herself of the Rose Bride and the strange duelling game in one blow by losing the fight on purpose. Anthy agrees, as it is impossible for her to disagree with the Engaged, and tries to help Utena plan.

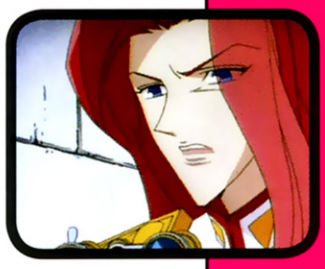
In response, the Shadow Girls gossip: There's going to be another duel in the forest behind the school. They better settle this, because, "Losing may be harder than you think."

The next day, on the duelling platform, Utena faces Saionji as Anthy places the flowers upon their breasts. Saionji sneers, "You know the rules." Anthy asks Utena to be careful. They duel. Swords clash, and Saionji almost defeats Utena through force of will. He taunts her and, yells, "The sword must be wielded by a great swordsman! Be prepared to witness my true power!" He knocks Utena to the ground, then cries out in triumph, "Both the Sword and Anthy belong to me!"

Again, the prince descends from the Castle and possesses Utena. In that moment, she finds great inner strength and defeats Saionji. The petals of the flower scatter from Saionji's breast to the floor of the duelling arena. Watching from afar, Touga wants to know what the power was. Never before has he seen the Soul of Dios possess a duellist, and does not know what it was. Was that the power of Dios? Was that the power of the Castle? Saionji is crushed. He cannot deal with being defeated twice.

Back at the dorm after the duel, Utena idly amuses herself by torturing Chu-Chu. Anthy walks into the room and accuses Utena: "You did not purposefully lose." Utena says, without even turning around, that she won the duel... for Chu-Chu.

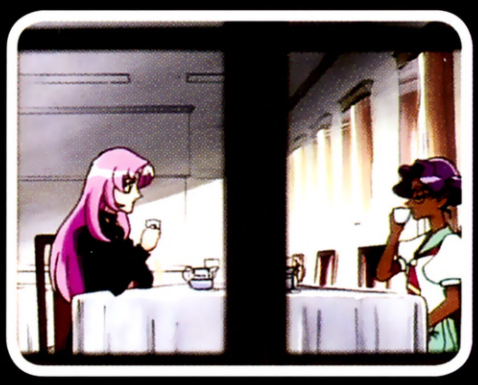


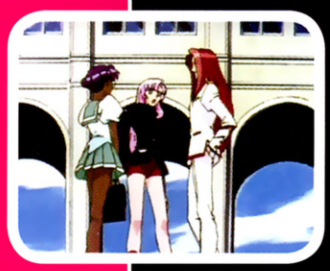


Revolutionary Girl

UTENA

EPISODE: 03





EPISODE 3: ON THE NIGHT OF THE BALL

Utena and Anthy receive invitations to a very posh ball at the Kiryuu Mansion. Are they now part of the "in" crowd, or is this a plot by Touga Kiryuu's jealous little sister, Nanami, to get revenge on Utena for Utena stealing the attentions of her beloved brother?

The next morning, Utena wakes and lies in bed. She ponders her prince, and the ring, and the duelling arena. What does it all mean? Anthy interrupts Utena's reveries by opening the door and wishing her good morning. The two dress and eat breakfast — completely alone in the utterly empty dorm. Utena comments on the lack of students, and asks Anthy if she has any friends. Anthy gestures to Chu-Chu. Isn't he enough?

As they walk to school, Utena asks Anthy to stop calling her Miss Utena. All the other girls along the way stop and call to Miss Utena! Utena laughs and explains that it's okay if they call her Miss Utena – but it's weird when Anthy does. Anthy explains once again that she is engaged to Utena, and thus fitting to call her that. Utena sighs, and tells Anthy to give it a rest. "Despite all appearances," Utena says, "I'm a normal girl."

Touga is now intrigued by Utena, and makes his move to get to know more about her. He stalks tiger-like up to Utena and Anthy, then quizzes Utena about the rules of the duelling game. Utena, a little taken aback, has not been briefed, and knows relatively little. Touga tries to make a move on Utena but she has none of it. "Keep it platonic, Mr. President," Utena quips.

In response, he holds up his hand, which bears a Rose Seal ring and says, "It's not as though we don't share a common bond."

Utena, unsettled, demands to know why he has a Rose Seal. He dodges the question. Utena thinks for just a moment that Touga, despite all appearances, could be her Prince. Touga remains oblivious to her thoughts, however, instead making every effort to charm her. The two are saved by the bell. Later, at the Student Council, Touga summarizes the duel between Utena and Saionji. Much to Touga's glee, Saionji has not emerged from his room since yesterday and he hasn't gone to class. Jury, casual and

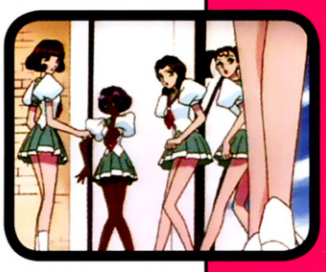
indifferent, asks, "Is this girl trying to bring revolution to the world?"

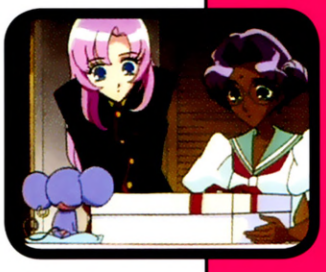
"No, she's different from us," Touga says. The thing no one can explain, however, is how she came to have a Rose Seal on her finger.

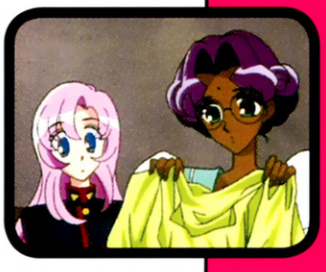
Later, by the Rose Garden, Touga is in his element, surrounded by adoring schoolgirls who cling to Touga's every word. Utena watches through a window above, curious as to his behaviour earlier. She loses concentration, however, when she is pounced by an enthusiastic Wakaba. Once they get their limbs sorted out, Wakaba sniffs "You better forget about him. He's the biggest playboy on campus." Utena ponders the idea of Touga as her prince, but Wakaba is bored. She wants to know about Anthy. She warns Utena, "You better steer clear. I hear bad rumours about what she once did to a popular boy."

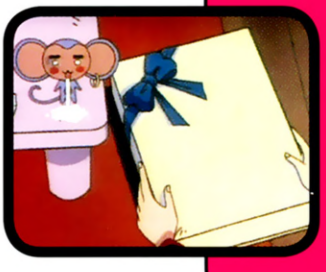
Meanwhile, around the corner, a group of thuggish girls hold Anthy against a wall and accuse her of ruining Saionji by breaking his heart; they want him back just the way he was. Before they rough Anthy up, however, they're shooed off by Touga's little sister, Nanami Kiryuu. Only good, wonderful, beautiful Nanami cares about Anthy — really, truly, honestly. Anthy, you see, has been nominated this year's dance queen. She simply must come to the ball at the Kiryuu Mansion.

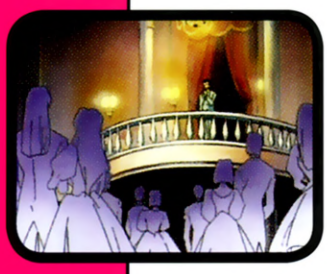
Back in their dorm, Anthy and Utena play cards, but Anthy purposefully loses every game, frustrating Utena to no end. "Is it true you have no friends?" Utena asks. Before Utena gets an answer, the doorbell rings. Anthy rushes to the door. She returns with a big box. The tag on the box reads: "The committee would like you to wear this dress." Within the box is a large, poofy, seafoam green confection that suits Anthy's complexion nicely. Of course, Utena finds this surfeit of feminine wear laughable, considering that she will not even wear normal girl's clothing. While Utena is mocking Anthy over the dress, however, they discover a second box with a tag reading, "And this package is for Miss Utena, from President Kiryuu."

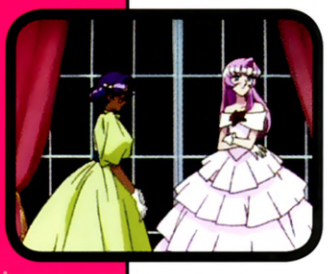


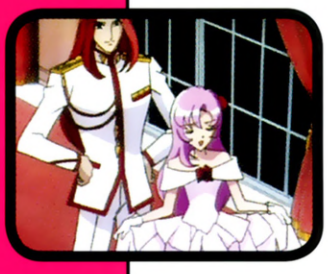


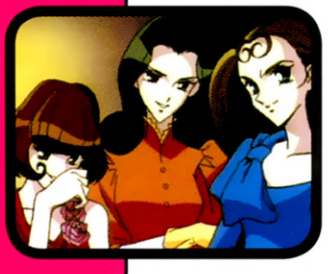












Utena opens the second box and pulls out a dramatic pink dress covered in roses. Utena looks at the dress in disbelief, stating her intent to skip the ball entirely. Anthy accepts her statement without argument, only adding that in that case, she will not go either. "I don't care for places with lots of people," Anthy says, noting that she does not enjoy big parties and doesn't know how to dance.

Utena is aghast, of course; having Anthy stay behind was in isolation was hardly the plan. She insists that Anthy go and make friends. Though Anthy has little to say on the matter, Utena is insistent that Anthy needs more friends — human friends — than just Chu-Chu. She tells Anthy that she will make her go herself if need be. Anthy's only response is, "If you say so, Miss Utena."

The Shadow Girls speak: "Did you know? Have you heard the news? The upcoming ball is the talk of the town! They may call it a ball, but it's really just a trap. How shameless can they be?"

That weekend, at the Kiryuu mansion, Touga stands on the balcony surveying the ballroom below while music plays. Nanami creeps up behind him and covers his eyes with her hands. Once he chides her, she resigns herself and hangs on his arm. She's the perfect ornament for her perfect man — at least she thinks so.

As the party starts, the contest for the school dance queen begins. Anthy and Utena enter dressed in the green and pink dresses respectively. Other girls can't help but admire Utena in her gown, resplendent in roses and complemented by Anthy's beautiful green ball gown as well. Everyone realises, some for the first time, that Utena is truly beautiful. Nanami makes a backhand comment about Anthy to Touga, then stalks off. Touga is not listening, however: all his attention is focused on Utena.

Utena, meanwhile, feels extremely uncomfortable, as though she's pretending to be something she's not. She complains to Anthy bitterly about the dress, about wearing the dress, and

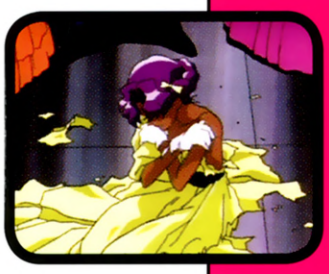
about being at the ball. Nanami approaches Utena and Anthy, gushing over Anthy's dress and telling her how beautiful she looks! She drags Anthy off across the ballroom. Utena considers this a win — it seems Anthy has a friend after all. Touga approaches and she complains to him about the dress, too. He laughs and tells her she's the queen of the campus in that dress.

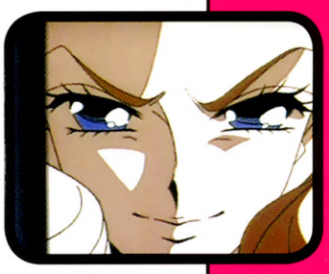
Meanwhile, Nanami's scheme is almost complete. She leads Anthy across the dance floor with an evil look in her eyes, then leaves Anthy on her own in the middle of the floor. Alone, with everyone staring at her, Anthy panics, frozen to the spot with fear.

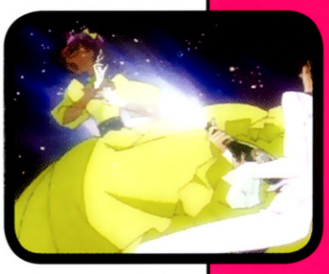
Off to the side, Nanami laughs with her friends about the "special dress." She nods to the waiter serving the champagne, and announces, "The girl who stole my brother from me is about to be humiliated!" The waiter weaves his way through the crowd and purposefully spills an entire bottle of champagne on Anthy's dress. As per Nanami's plan, it begins to disintegrate in water as the stitches dissolve, falling to shreds before the assembled guests.

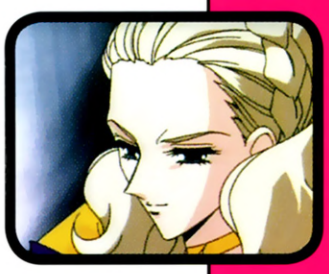
Back to the side of the dance floor, Touga asks Utena to dance. Utena refuses, however, and asks him to stop his advances. When he asks her why she came, she begins to say, "In case you were my prince," but stops before she can finish the statement, cut off by Anthy's horrified scream. She runs to Anthy's side, leaving Touga cursing at his sister's terrible timing. When Utena arrives at Anthy's side, she finds the girl sitting crouched in the middle of the floor, clutching the scraps of the dress to her body as the crowd laughs.

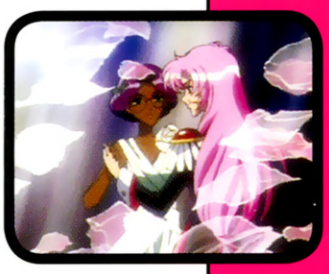
Utena's had enough, and rips off her own dress, revealing her boy's uniform. She leaps into the centre of the crowd, offers her hand to Anthy, then asks for a dance. When Anthy takes her hand, Utena sweeps a white tablecloth off a nearby table and wraps it around Anthy, toga-style. Nanami fumes in the background, but the crowd is cheering for Anthy and Utena. The pair dance as Touga admires Utena, much to his sister's ire.

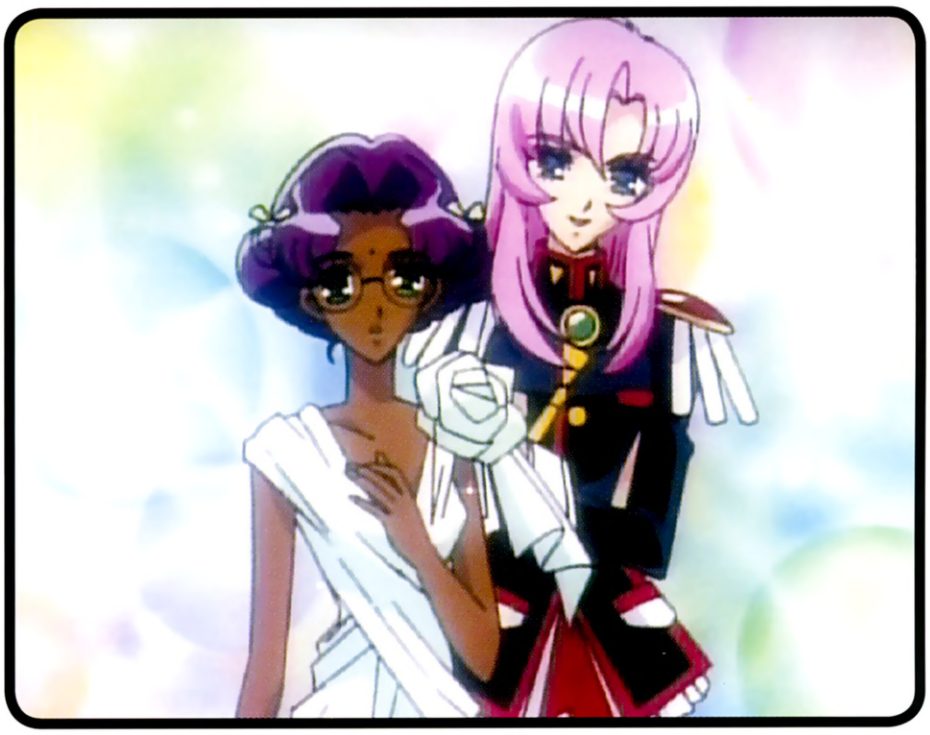












Revolutionary Girl Utena

Episode: 04

Episode 4: The Sunlit Garden Prelude

Miki "Mickey" Kaoru, a gifted musical genius, is the youngest of the Student Council. Although haunted by his past, he falls hopelessly in love with Anthy Himemya. During a study session, Nanami uses Miki's affection and a highly convoluted plan to discredit Anthy as a weirdo and worse.

Miki sits at a piano in a large, empty practice room. Nanami leans on the piano, applauds, and lavishes attention on him. He is undoubtedly the best pianist at the school, yet he dropped out of the school competition. When she asks him why, Miki says that he thinks the piano is a little out of tune. When Nanami explains that the piano was just tuned, he says, "Maybe I'm the one who needs tuning."

He returns to his music, ignoring Nanami for a time. She listens, noting that he always plays that same song when he's alone. Miki says that it is the only song that means anything, that he hopes that if he played it just right, "she" might hear. He is doomed to fail, however, and can never capture what it is he feels. Nanami disagrees, saying that it sounds right to her, but Miki disagrees. He cannot express the eternal beauty he feels inside. He only gets close when he plays this song — the Sunlit Garden.

Elsewhere in school, the math scores have been returned for Utena and Wakaba's class. Wakaba bemoans her fate, as she's gotten the worst grade ever. She wishes she did better in math. Utena says Wakaba needs a sense of logic for math. Wakaba moans, and wishes she could be as good in math as Utena, but Utena failed the exam so badly she has to take a make-up exam.

In the Rose Garden, Nanami's friends arrive as Anthy fills a pot of water. They complain about "their Miki," and claim he dropped out of the piano competition for her. Anthy accidentally knocks her own books onto the ground and tempers rise. Before things get rough, however, Miki arrives and yells at Nanami's friends. They scatter to the four winds, while Miki bends to help Anthy gather up her books. The two make eye contact for the first time.

As Wakaba and Utena walk from class, they look out the window

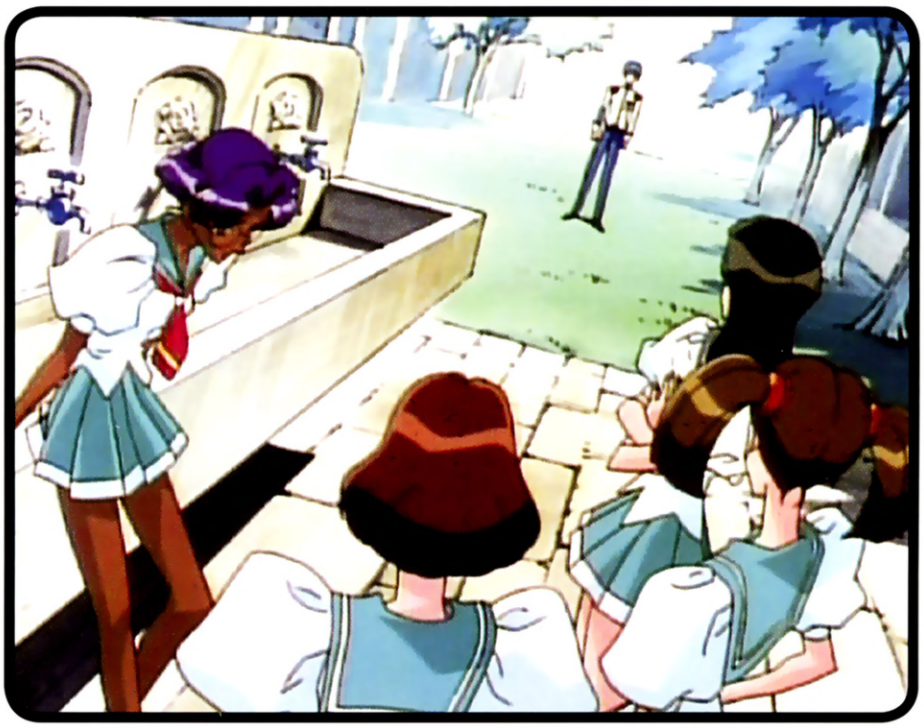
to see Miki and Anthy together at the Rose Garden. The two immediately become curious: Miki is the handsome boy, younger than all of them, who fences, plays the piano, and already takes University courses. He's a total genius and really popular with the girls — but what is he doing with Anthy?

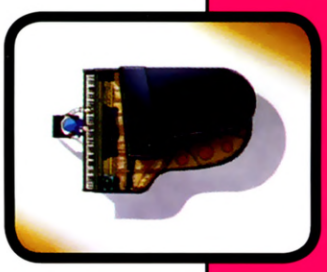
Later, as Miki studies in the library, Jury approaches. She specifically seeks him out, and is surprised to find him correcting someone else's test paper: an oddity, as he doesn't deal with the other kids that much. Miki asks Jury if happiness can sometimes be near by, but Jury has no idea what he's talking about and teases him mercilessly in an "older sister" sort of way.

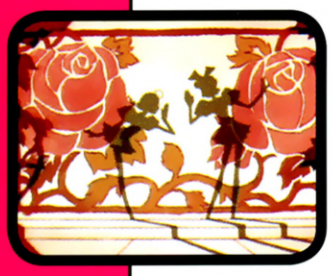
That night, in Anthy and Utena's room, Miki corrects Anthy's test exam for her. He gives her some hints on solving the problems, and Utena jokes about Anthy and her "genius boyfriend." Miki then formally introduces himself to Utena and holds up a hand with a Rose Seal. Utena immediately becomes protective of Anthy, but Miki corrects her: he does not want to fight a duel over Anthy. Smiling, he returns to helping Anthy with her schoolwork, reminded of a girl he once knew, long ago.

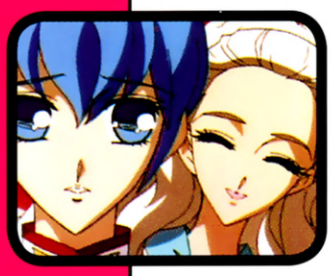
Miki's lack of interest in duelling doesn't help Utena's feelings, however. The duels and Student Council nonsense have been distracting her, and now her grades are slipping. Finally faced with someone who is a part of everything she's been trying to deal with, she loses her temper and accuses Miki of making her fail. Miki tries to be conciliatory, but he is upset as well.

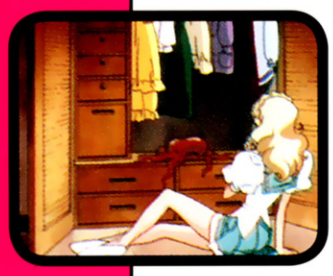
The next day in the piano room, Miki plays while Touga stands over him. "You're playing well today," Touga says. "Did you find that shining thing you told me about?" Miki nods, and says he believes he's finding a feeling he lost years ago: love. A scene from Miki's memories shows for a moment: young Miki sits next to his twin sister on a bench before a piano in











a garden, and they play the piano together. Meanwhile, back in the present, Miki is looking fondly at a picture of Anthy. Touga says, "I envy you. If you have found that shining thing, be sure to let me know what it is." In the wings, however, Nanami eavesdrops enviously.

The Shadow Girls speak: "The first one to fall for me in middle school was the boy who was best in math. He found out I'm gross and he left me! Oh young man, who dreams of love. The truth behind the girl — do you really know what it is?""

That night, Miki goes to Utena's dorm with Nanami in tow. He plans to help both Anthy and Utena with their math, and Nanami has tagged along as well. Utena answers the door and lets both inside. As all four settle down to study, Nanami starts to act out her cunning plan to ruin Anthy in Miki's eyes by showing him just how weird Anthy really is.

First, Nanami pulls a snail from her bag, to plant in Anthy's pencil box. She believes that seeing a snail in Anthy's pencil box will convince him how weird Anthy is. "Operation Anthy is a weirdo who keeps a snail in her pencil box!" Nanami cackles.

Nanami sneaks a hand out while Miki teaches and steals the pencil box. She opens it and... it's full of snails! Nanami screams, totally grossed out. Anthy says, "Oh, don't worry about that. That's just my snail's home." Miki is charmed at Anthy's love for small creatures, much to Nanami's dismay.

Nanami is not to be outdone, however. She pulls out the next step in her plan: a garter snake. She creeps over to Anthy's desk, cackling to herself, "Operation Anthy Himemya is a weirdo... who keeps a garter snake in her desk drawer!" Before she can drop the snake in the drawer, however, she finds a mongoose. The mongoose eats the snake, and Nanami is horrified. Miki finds the mongoose to be very cute, however, and thinks nothing of it.

"She has a mongoose! Don't either of you think that's weird?" Nanami demands. Undismayed,

Anthy puts the mongoose away and they return to their lesson.

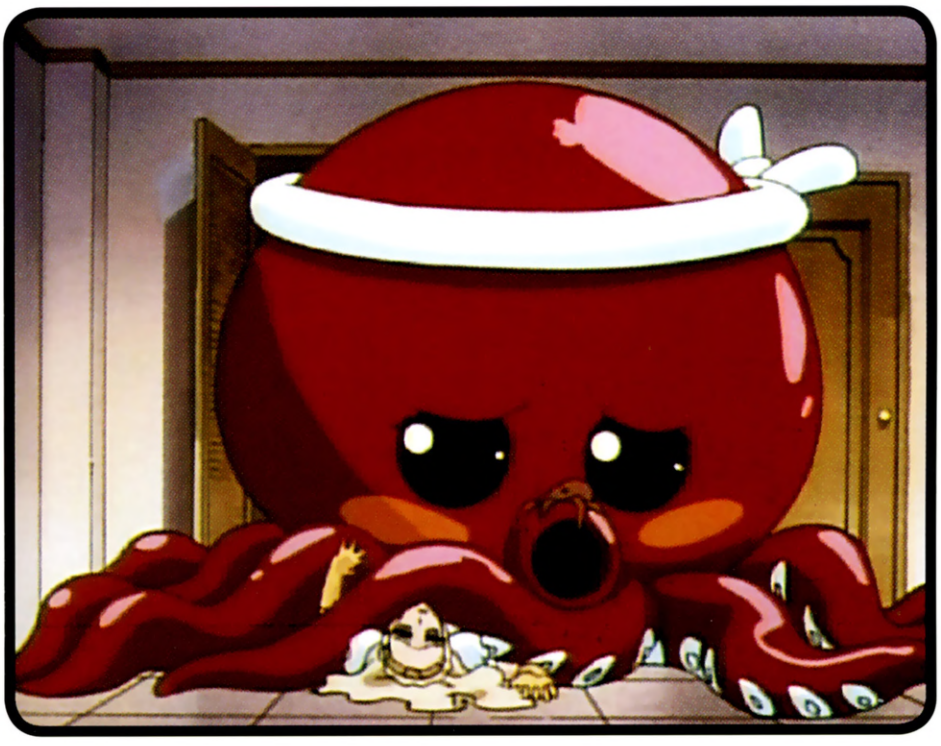
In a last ditch effort to convince Miki that Anthy is a freak, Nanami pulls out an octopus. Her spirits revive a bit at this latest effort to smear Anthy's reputation, and she cackles to herself again. "Operation Anthy's a total weirdo who keeps a live octopus in her closet!" Nanami sneaks over to the closet and opens it, only to find — a giant octopus inside!

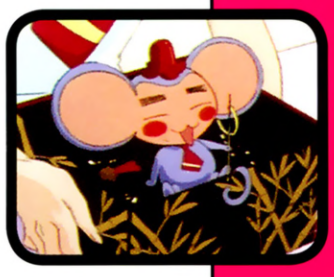
Nanami is struck dumb, left without resource. Utena notices Nanami by the closet, and tells her it's a little dangerous to just open it like that. Apparently Anthy found a huge octopus balloon and felt sorry for it, being abandoned like that, so she rescued it and put it in her closet. Miki thinks Anthy is sweet for doing so, and Nanami is finally defeated, much to her disgust.

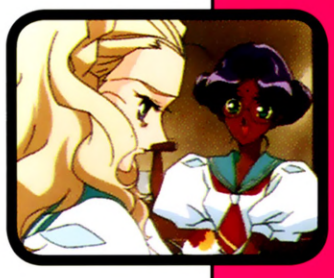
After correcting homework, Utena announces that it is snack time and Anthy offers to make food. Miki takes her up on the offer, but Nanami is too frazzled to comprehend what Utena said. By the time she realizes what's going on, she remembers that she made a snack for the group as a way to impress Miki, only to find that Chu-Chu ate it. Nothing is going right for Nanami tonight.

Anthy makes flavoured ice, and for Nanami, that's the last straw. She starts yelling about how Anthy is so weird. Miki disagrees, saying that he likes shaved ice, but Nanami won't be dissuaded. She wants to know why everyone likes Anthy so much. Miki is surprised; "Nanami, didn't you say you wanted to be Miss Anthy's friend?" Miki asks.

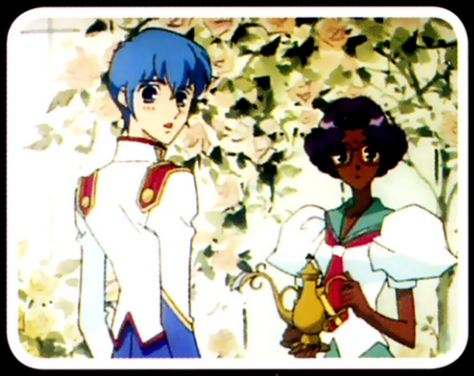
During the argument, Anthy slips out, heads down the stairs, and settles before the dorm's grand piano. Miki and Utena go looking for Anthy, and are shocked to find her at the keyboard. No one knew Anthy could play. The song touches a chord in Miki's memory: the playing — it's the same touch as his sister's. The song is "The Sunlit Garden," just like Miki and his sister used to play. Miki is completely smitten. "I've found it. My shining thing," he says.







Episode: 05



Episode 5: The Sunlit Garden Finale

Miki has fallen in love with Anthy and, more importantly, Anthy's piano playing. He fears if he leaves Anthy in the hands of Utena, Utena will disallow Anthy from playing forever. Miki challenges Utena to a duel to get the music back. Utena reluctantly accepts.

The episode opens with Jury fencing with Miki in the practice room. After a hard fought battle, Miki tags Jury, finally beating her. They've fought dozens of times, but Miki has never won. They pull off their protective masks, and Miki laments that he is not yet perfect. Jury believes Miki's lack of perfection is his strength. She comments that his sword is not for battle, anyway. That afternoon in the Rose Garden, Anthy smiles over her healthy roses. Miki helps with tending and care, and compares this time, now, with the time in "that other garden." For once, he feels happy and content.

Later, in the music room, Anthy plays the piano while Utena, Miki, and Chu-Chu watch and listen. Miki finds his "lost feeling," and names the song: The Sunlit Garden. He and his sister wrote it when they were children. In a flashback, Miki and his twin sister play the piano in the forgotten garden. Adults from all over the neighbourhood are amazed at their talent, but for Miki, simply playing beautiful music with his twin sister is all the happiness he could ever need.

Unfortunately, such simple pleasures could not last. They end up playing at a concert, where everyone will come see them. Miki's sister, Kozue, is nervous. She's afraid to be in front of strangers. "Don't worry," Miki says, assuring Kozue, "I'll be right there with you." On the day of the concert, however, he cannot be there. He falls ill with the measles and cannot play, leaving his sister to go on stage alone. She panics, however, and cannot play.

Kozue gets up and runs off stage, hiding for the entire night. She never plays the piano again.

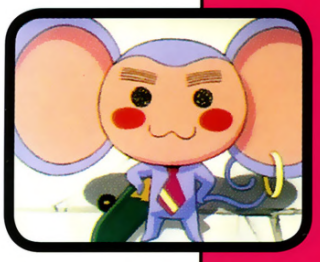
Only when Kozue stops playing does Miki realize how much he loved to hear her. Miki only continues to play the piano now to remind himself of that feeling. He could never re-create it, though, no matter how hard he tries. Yet today, in the present, he has finally heard that song again, thanks to Anthy. Miki found his "shining thing." "So are you saying you're in love with her?" Utena asks. Miki looks embarrassed, but doesn't say no. Utena then teases Anthy. "What are you going to do about the dashing younger man in your life?"

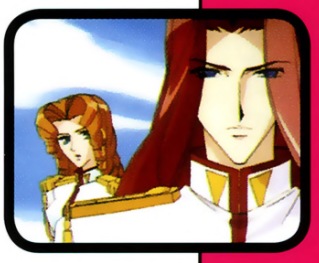
"But I'm your bride, Miss Utena," Anthy answers. Utena grows irritated. She hates the duels, and will not be involved with any organization that deprives someone of their personal freedom. It is unfair to Anthy, and yet she cannot convince the girl to act for herself. Miki sits on the piano stool and looks thoughtful.

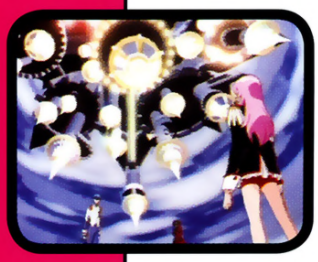
Later, the Student Council meets — this time without letters from End of the World. Miki lays down an urgent motion. He demands the dissolution of the Student Council. The duels, he claims, are ridiculous. He cannot stand by and let them continue.

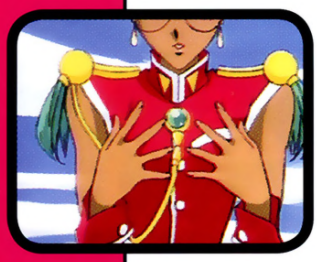
"Love certainly changes a person," Jury says.

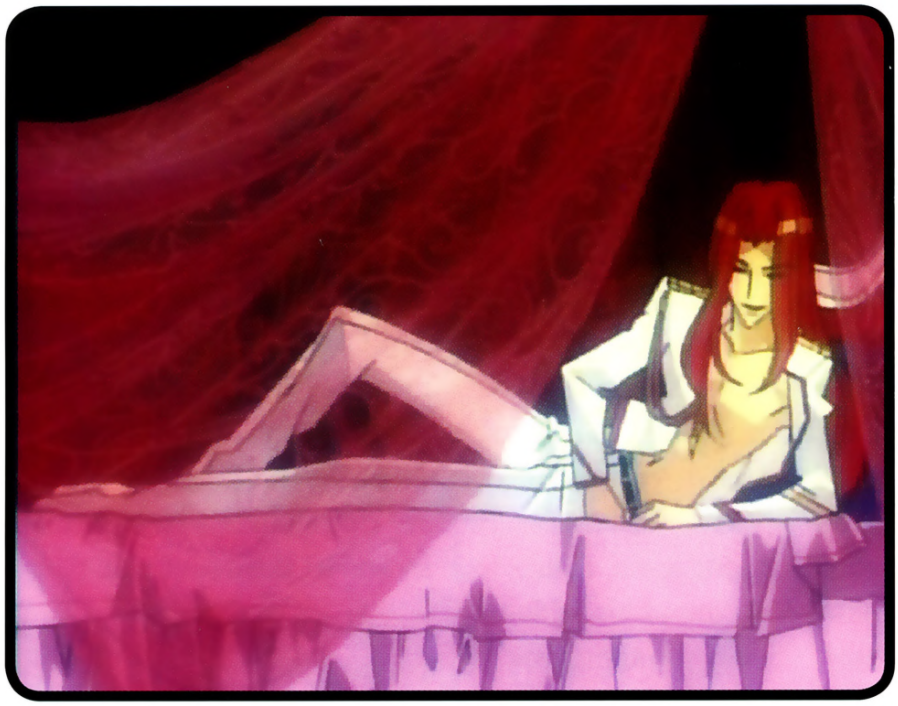
On the way back from the Student Council meeting, Miki runs into Kozue outside the music practice room. They're cruel to each other, and Kozue chides him for playing piano. "I don't have any more hopes for you and music," Miki sniffs. "What are you doing here if you don't play the piano?" His sister, without answering, wanders off with a sly, half-smile on her face.











Within the music practice room, Touga awaits Miki, looking excessively pleased with himself. Clearly, Touga was having a little fun with Kozue Kaoru. Touga says, "I think your sister is cute, but I think you're cuter." Moments later, Anthy enters the music room after Miki Touga uses Anthy as an example and takes advantage of the situation, manipulating Miki toward his desired goal. "Unless you are willing to fight for the precious things you desire, people will take them away from you, Miki." He explains that even if the Student Council dissolved, the person engaged to the Rose Bride can make her do whatever he or she wants, without any oversight or any way to change. Without the Student Council, Anthy can never be free.

After planting a seed of fear in Miki's heart, Touga leaves the Music Room, pleased with himself. Anthy takes her place at the bench as Miki looks on, wondering how Anthy learned to play. Miki thinks she looks cute, and then swears he will not lose his "shining thing" again.

Miki asks Anthy if she enjoys playing the piano, and she says she does. When he asks when she'll play again, however, she offhandedly remarks that she'd have to ask Miss Utena. Only if she gives her permission will Anthy play again. On top of Touga's previous remarks, Miki suddenly fears that he will lose Anthy and her song! He looks distressed, and comes to a decision. He will challenge Utena to a duel to protect Anthy's song. Anthy seems pleased by this prospect, and thanks him.

Meanwhile, in the classroom, Wakaba bothers Utena about the makeup test. Utena is about to answer when

Miki stalks in. He walks right up to Utena and challenges her to a duel. Utena is upset, not only because she hates the entire duelling system, but because she thought Miki was her friend. She doesn't understand what made him decide to do this.

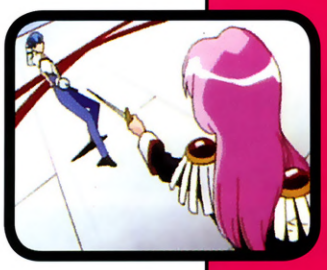
The Shadow Girls speak: "Pirates! Today they set sail! With all your treasure, why don't you have the thing you really want? Isn't that why you won't give up being a pirate captain? The thing I really want is..."

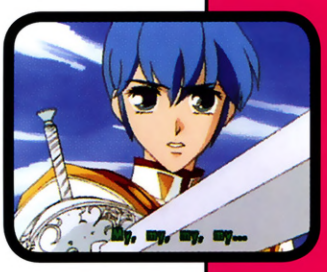
On the platform, Miki, Utena, and Anthy prepare for a duel, while Jury watches over Miki from the Student Council tower. Utena offers him a chance to rethink his position, but he is adamant. Utena says sadly, "I think being seated at the piano suited you much better," and Jury silently agrees.

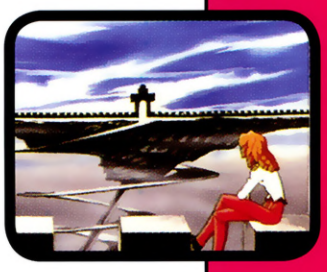
Miki puts up a fight, waging a skilled battle against Utena. He is driven by his desire to let Anthy be free and to play her music. Anthy is still cheering for Utena, though. Miki is confused and disheartened by this, losing his edge in the battle. Utena defeats him handily, and the bells toll once more. The battle ends, and Anthy says to Miki, "Good try. I'd like to study with you again!"

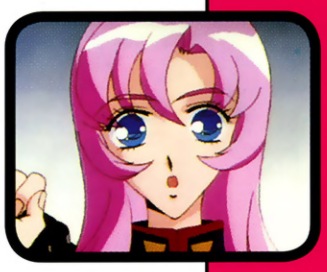
Back in the music room, Kozue sits at the piano and tries to play. She tells her friends she never was very good. When they ask why she played, she explains that a boy next door told her he loved her. She just played with her genius brother, and everyone assumed she played brilliantly. When he fell sick, she fell apart on stage and never played again.

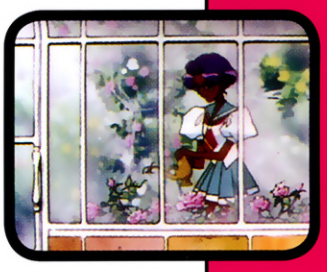
After the duel, Wakaba and Utena talk in the hall. Miki stalks up to them and tells Utena, "Next time, I won't lose!"

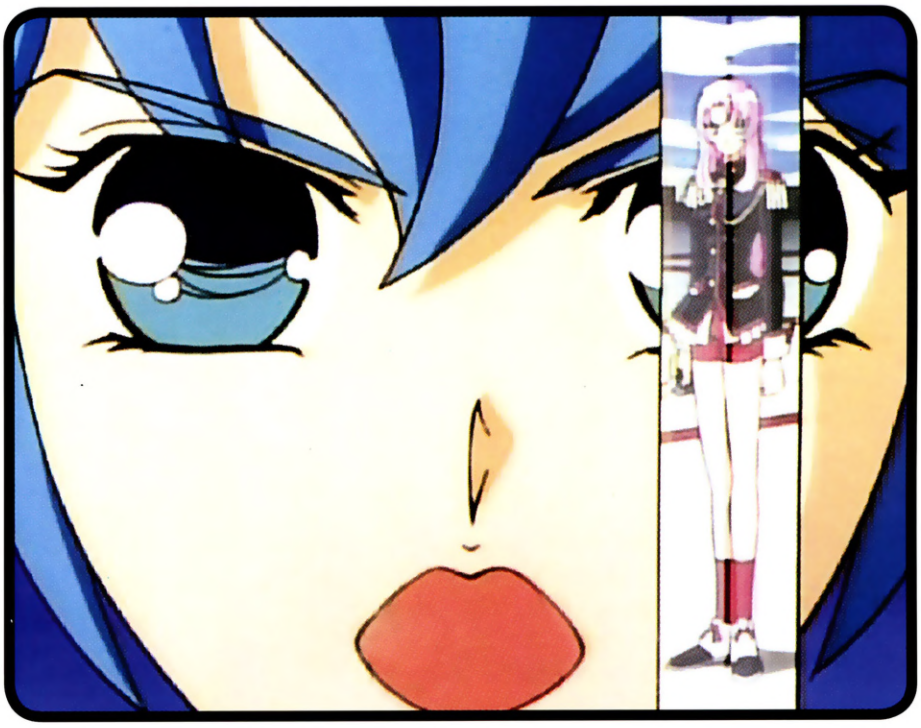












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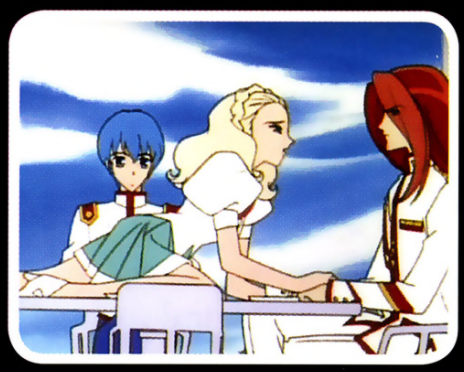
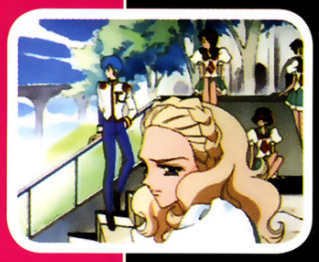
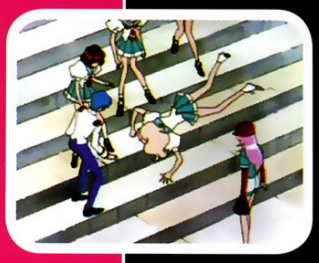
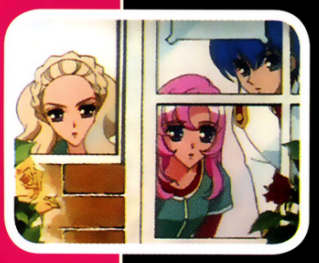








Episode 6: Take Care, Miss Nanami

Someone is trying to kill Nanami in an overly elaborate manner. An elementary school boy, Mitsuru Tsuwabuki, comes to her rescue at the last moment from a rampaging horse. As a reward, Nanami makes him her "boyfriend." Can Nanami's prince really be a boy five years younger than herself? Take care of the truth, Nanami!

The episode opens with Nanami walking alone on a quiet lane late at night. Dogs start barking, and she hears something behind her — footsteps, coming closer! She becomes frightened and runs, only to trip and fall. An oncoming car nearly hits her. Nanami looks up to see a shadowy figure standing over to the side. As the driver asks Nanami if she is okay, the shadowy figure turns and walks away.

Later, Touga, Nanami and Miki sit at tea. Touga does not entirely believe Nanami's story, but she is insistent. She claims that it isn't the first time either. There was the time a flower pot nearly fell on Nanami's head, then some logs fell on her and she almost fell down a staircase. She insists that someone is jealous and thus out to kill her, and begs for her brother's help. Touga just laughs at her, however, telling her to stop reading so many novels.

That afternoon, Nanami and her friends go to watch the baseball game. Miki is there as well, and she complains to him about Touga's treatment of her. Miki asks if she has done something to make someone angry, and her friends note that nothing she's done could be traced back to her. While they're speaking, however, a baseball flies over and hits Nanami in the face. Everyone is shocked, and Nanami is furious. It turns out that it was Utena's fault, but she seems unconcerned about Nanami's anger or injury, and just wants her ball back.

After the game, Nanami accuses Utena of trying to kill her. Utena is unimpressed, pointing out that she has no motive to kill Nanami. Nanami points to Touga's interest in Utena, but she reminds Nanami that Touga likes everyone. Miki ignores the arguing girls and stares out the window to amuse himself. There he sees that someone is in the Rose Garden, though a "Keep Out" sign hangs on the door. The trio go over to the greenhouse to see what is going on.

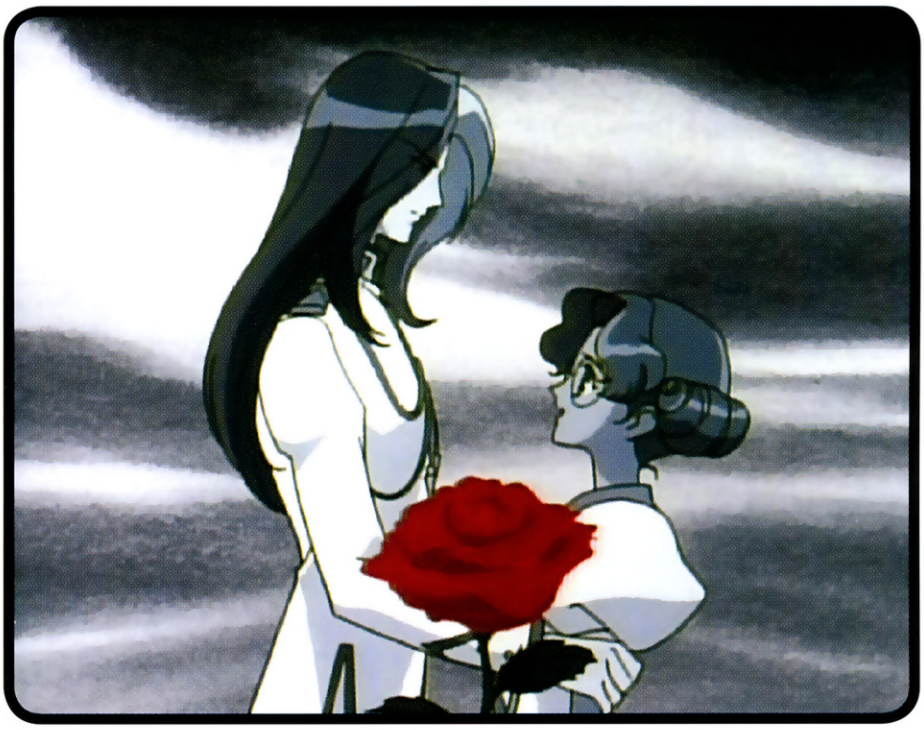
Inside the greenhouse, Touga is arguing with Anthy. He demands to know why she cannot finish the job. He insists that they cannot have "them" around anymore, but Anthy insists she cannot do it. He tells her that they cannot change their minds now, and must have the killing over with at once. Touga asks Anthy what's wrong with killing vermin, and she says, "no matter how much you may hate something... a life is a life. Maybe they'll go away on their own."

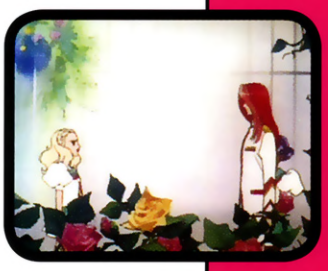
Listening at the door, Nanami panics, believing her brother and Anthy are plotting to kill her. She bursts into the Rose Garden and accuses Touga of trying to murder her, then breaks into tears and runs off. Utena also yells at Touga for plotting to kill Nanami, but then Anthy and Touga explain that they were killing the aphids on the roses, not plotting to kill Touga's sister.

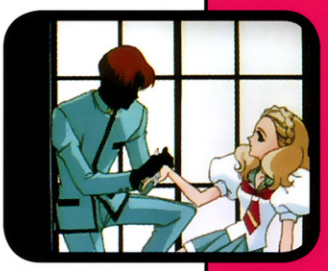
Heartbroken, Nanami runs through the school hallway, and is almost trampled by a runaway horse before being rescued by a mysterious figure. Shocked and relieved, Nanami looks up at the mysterious figure, not knowing who it could be. The scene ends before his face is revealed, though.

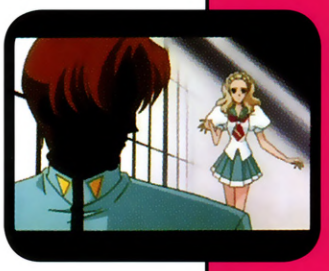
It's later that day at school when Utena and Miki discuss Nanami's prince. Utena is impressed, noting that's the sort of person she wants to be. Meanwhile, Nanami sits in class and examines a handkerchief with "Mitsuru Tsuwabuki" embroidered on the corner — her Prince. Returning to a memory of the rescue, there's a scene where Tsuwabuki attends to Nanami's wounded hand after he rescues her. She asks for his name, but he refuses to give it, saying that it's unimportant and that he's sure they'll meet again.

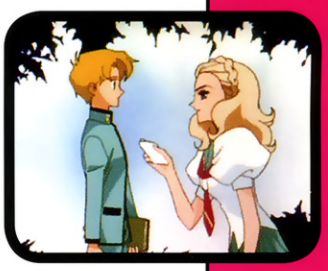
Upon hearing the story, Miki and Utena cannot believe that someone who wasn't Touga won Nanami over. They check out guys as Nanami passes them. Who is the prince? The jock? The teacher? No one stands out as a likely candidate. Curious, Miki and Utena follow Nanami to her secret rendezvous, where they learn that Tsuwabuki is ... an elementary school kid! The two lovers meet beneath a tree and Miki

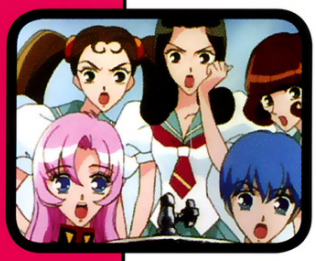


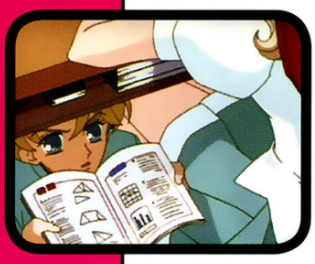


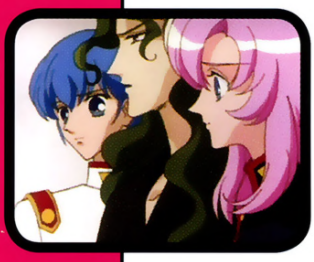


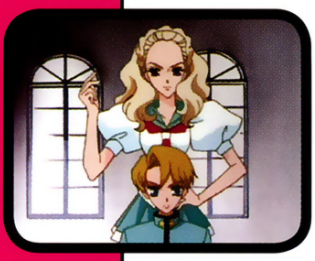


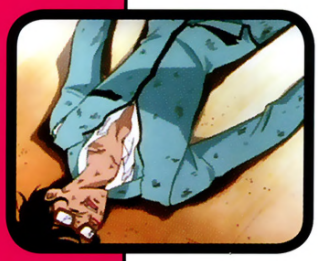


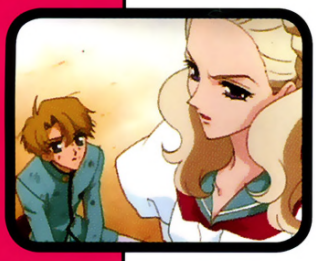


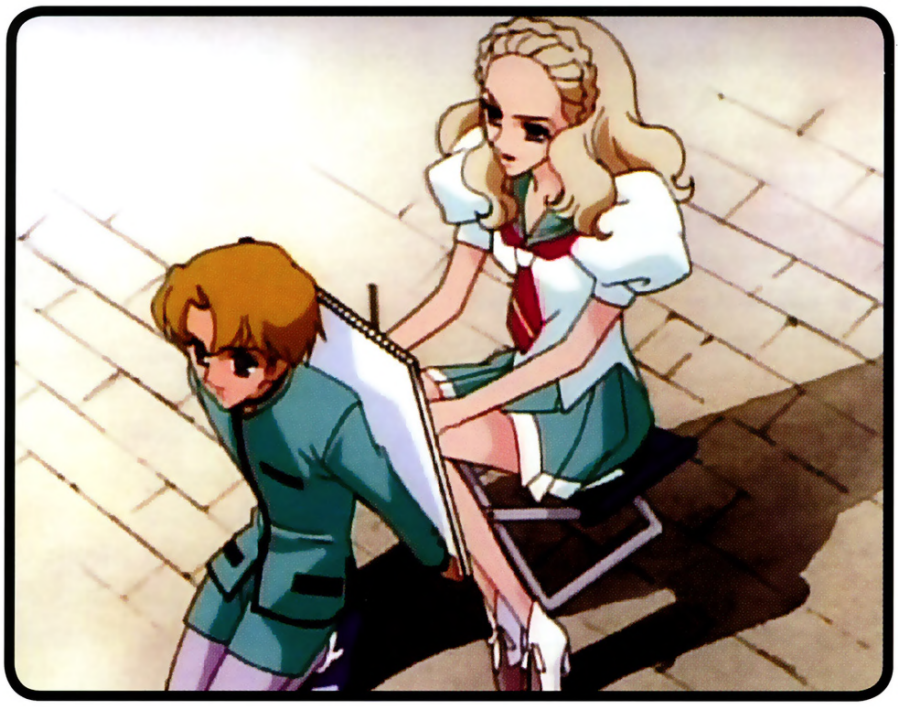












and Utena see Nanami ask him on a date. The two duellists are aghast.

The Shadow Girls speak: "Making curry over the fire? It's good on top, but rotten underneath!"

Over lunch, Utena expresses her disbelief that Nanami is dating an elementary school kid. Miki doubts the relationship is serious, knowing her obsession with Touga. Miki suspects this is bad. To Nanami, everyone else is meaningless. The two friends glance out the window at Nanami with Tsuwabuki. They're hanging out together, but they look more like brother and sister than boyfriend and girlfriend. Given Nanami's behaviour, it looks as though she doesn't want a boyfriend, she wants a slave. She treats him horribly, snapping her fingers and ordering him about. While Utena and Miki watch this with surprise, Saionji appears. He lectures them about love, saying that it can take many different forms.

After the conversation, three high-school students, Suzuki, Yamada and Tanaka, corner Nanami in the hall. They love Nanami, writing her love letters every day, and cannot allow her to date a little kid as a matter of honour. Before they can object further, however, Nanami snaps her fingers and Tsuwabuki stands between Nanami and her accusers. The boy and the three elder boys fight while Nanami admires the sky.

Moments later, Tsuwabuki stands dirty but triumphant. Nanami hugs him, since he protected her. Utena comes around the corner and accuses Nanami of taking advantage of Tsuwabuki. She just stood there and watched while he fought!

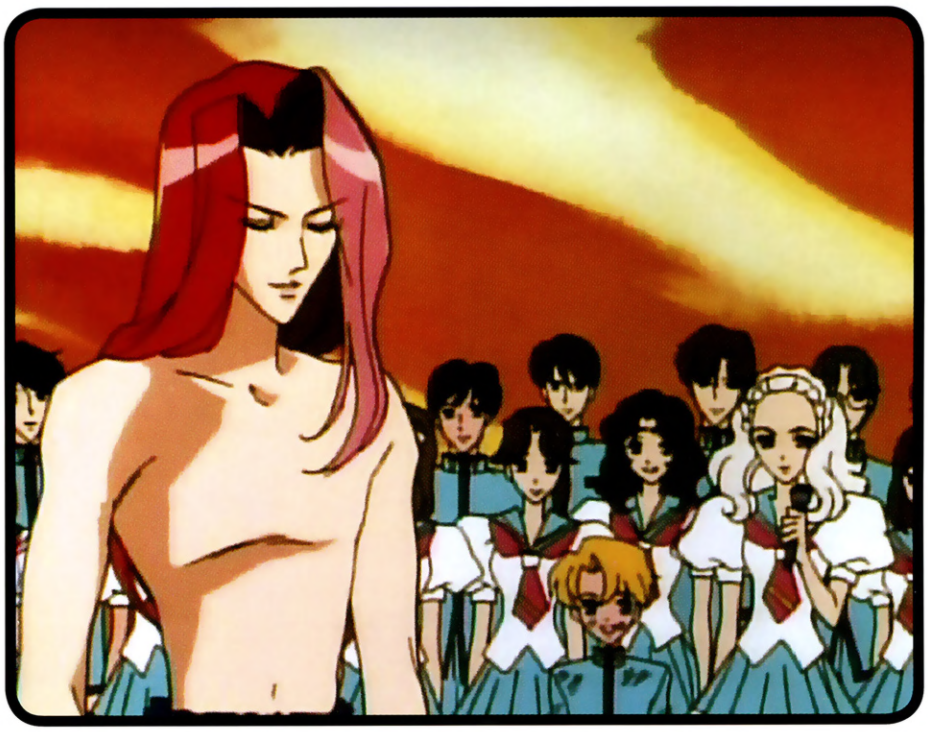
Nanami insists that Touga is trying to kill her and Tsuwabuki will protect her. Miki tries to tell her of her mistake, but she insists she's right. She also says that Tsuwabuki is her boyfriend, and how she treats him is no one else's business. Miki strongly disapproves, but Tsuwabuki does not mind if Nanami treats him terribly. Utena demands to know why he lets Nanami abuse him, and Tsuwabuki says that fate brought them together.

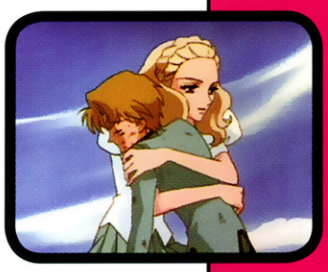
The scene changes to a flashback, where years ago, a runaway bull charged straight towards little Nanami. Even younger Tsuwabuki dashed to save Nanami, but her big brother Touga rescued her first. After that day, all Tsuwabuki did was practice being a cool big brother until he got his chance. Despite his efforts, however, Nanami never noticed him. He had no choice — he had to put her in danger again.

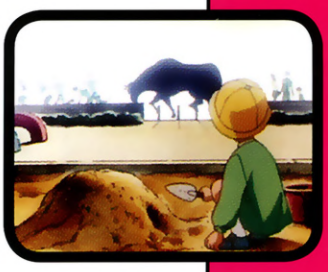
Miki is shocked at this revelation, and does his best to verify it. Tsuwabuki admits he orchestrated the death threats — so he could save Nanami in the nick of time. That's how a big brother acts, after all. Nanami gets the entire confession on tape and hears everything. She is very angry, despite Utena and Miki trying to calm her down. She announces over the school PA system that she does not care.

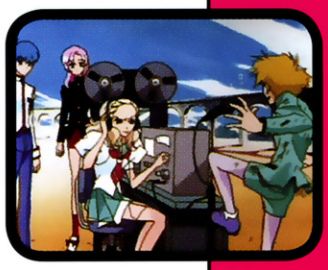
Meanwhile... a kangaroo gets loose! Utena and Miki dive away as the kangaroo attacks. Tsuwabuki takes a punch from the kangaroo in order to protect Nanami. Utena grabs a rake but the kangaroo hits her. The kangaroo stands menacingly over Utena and Miki when... the kangaroo is hit with a thrown flowerpot. Tsuwabuki challenges the kangaroo. Nanami grabs Tsuwabuki, however, and runs away. She doesn't mind rescuing him because she needs guys like him to work for her. She won't let him get killed.Suddenly, Touga appears, in gloves and trunks, ready to box. He hits the kangaroo and knocks it out with one punch. The bell dings and everyone applauds: Touga is the hero. Anthy, following Touga, says they've taken care of the vermin problem in the Rose Garden.

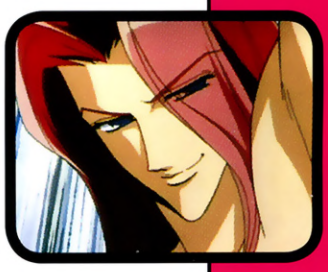
Following the marsupial interlude, Nanami breaks up with Tsuwabuki over the PA system. Tsuwabuki doesn't mind, however, because he has a new goal. He wants to be adopted into the Kiryuu family, so he can be a little brother. He might not be a good big brother, but he makes a good little brother. Nanami then naturally expresses her undying love for Touga.

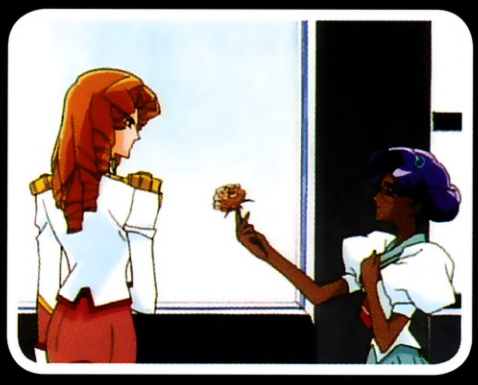




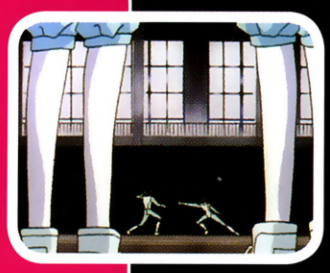


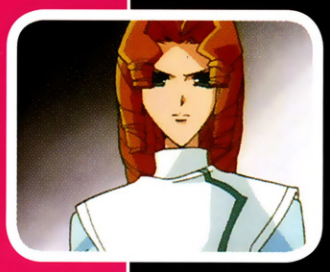


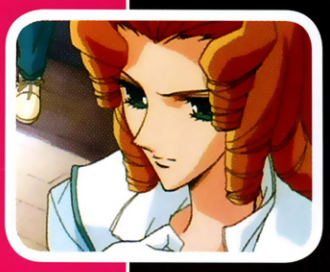


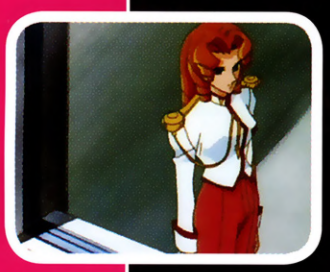


Episode: 07









Episode 7: Unfulfilled Jury

Cold, beautiful Jury Arisugawa used to believe in miracles. One day, her miraculous life was destroyed by her best friend, Shiori. Now, Jury duels to prove to the world that there is no such thing as miracles. She must prove to herself and the world how silly the belief in miracles truly is.

Today, at a fencing competition, Jury defeats opponent after opponent. Finished and tired, she sits down to rest. Miki sits on the ground at her feet, impressed with Jury's victory. "And what do I have to show for it?" Jury asks. "Will I smash the world's shell?"

Later, in the hall, Jury meets with the vice principal of the school. He tells her that the Student Council did a fine job handling last week's meeting, and that the school can continue with its traditions. He then invites her to lunch. Just around the corner, however, the school councillor is yelling at Utena about campus rules. She accuses her of bringing a pet onto campus. She denies it, saying she only brought her lunch — not realising that Chu-Chu had stolen away in her lunch. The councillor calls her insolent, and Chu-Chu squirms away, leading the councillor to chase after him.

While the councillor chases after Chu-Chu, Jury leans out the window and calls to Utena. Utena waves, but says she can't talk, gesturing toward the councillor. Meanwhile, the vice principal offers again to take Jury to lunch.

In response, Jury tells him the school councillor is looking for him. The school councillor, Jury claims, has a lunch date with the vice principal. He is confused, but Jury is firm. The vice principal then walks into the school councillor's office, interrupts Utena's interrogation, and takes the councillor to lunch. When Utena exits the office. Jury asks if she now has time to talk. Utena calls it a miracle.

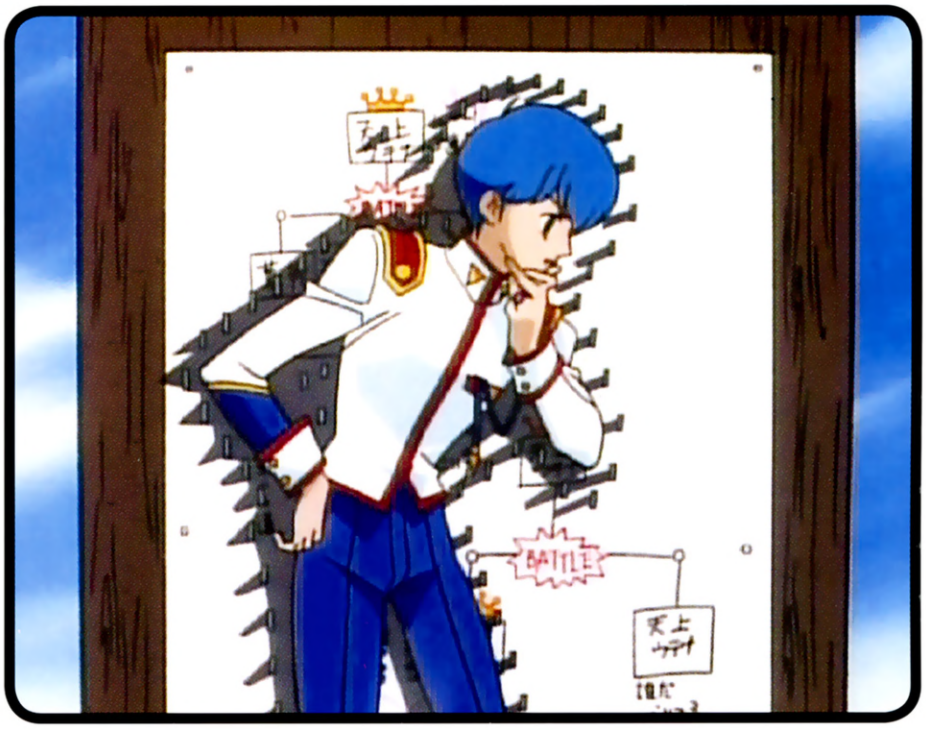
Utena has heard all about Jury — the Student Council member and Fencing Team captain who has the teachers in the palm of her hand. They say she is a hard person to get to know, and people

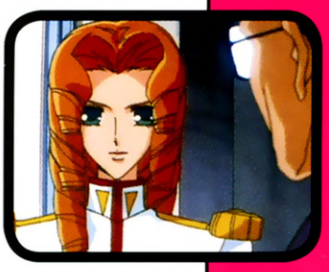
fear her. Utena tells Jury about the rumours, but that she doesn't know if she believes them. She even heard a teacher left school because Jury looked at her the wrong way. Jury doesn't answer directly, but says she's impressed that the lower grades know so much about her.

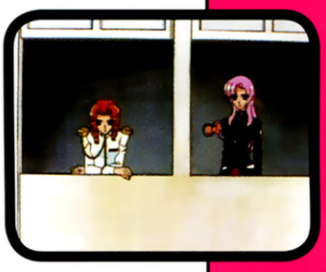
When Utena asks if the rumours are true, Jury doesn't reply. Instead, she comments on Utena's ability with a sword. Eager for the opportunity, Utena then asks Jury about the Rose Bride and why they all fight over her. Jury responds, saying that she doesn't actually know, but guesses anyone who possesses the Rose Bride has miraculous power. Utena is amused, noting that if she does have miraculous power since she is engaged to the Rose Bride, it should certainly come in handy for finals. Jury is not amused, however. Both agree that the endless duels are distasteful, while Jury enters a momentary reverie, remembering a voice saying, *Believe in miracles, and they will know your feelings.* Snapping out of it, Jury says, "There are no such things as miracles."

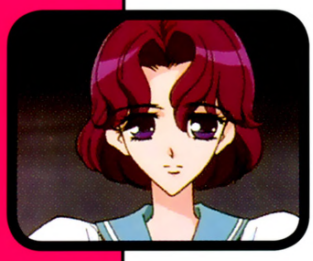
Before they can discuss anything else, however, the school councillor returns from lunch and summons Utena back to his office. As Utena disappears, Anthy walks up to Jury and offers a rose. Jury smacks it out of Anthy's hand and stalks off.

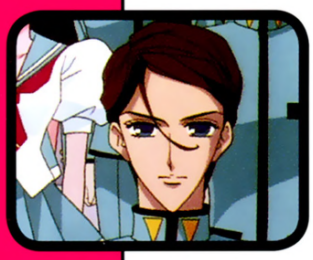
Later, at the Student Council Meeting, the group looks over a chart of the duels. Miki received a letter from End of the World, and someone must duel this week. Touga and Jury are next in line. Being the most recent addition to the council, Miki is surprised that Jury duels. Touga responds, however, saying, "The reason she has a place among us is because she duels so well!" Miki agrees that Jury is worthy of being in the group, but argues that she has no motive to duel for the Rose Bride. Touga corrects Miki, however, noting that she does: she wants the Rose Bride so she can disprove the power of miracles.

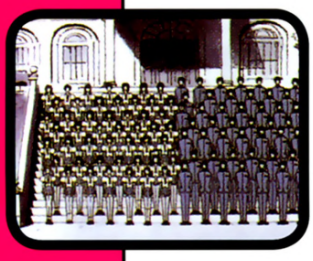


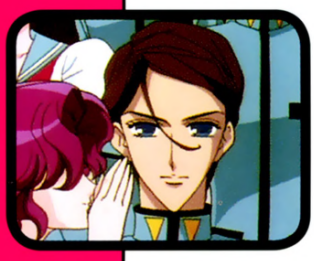


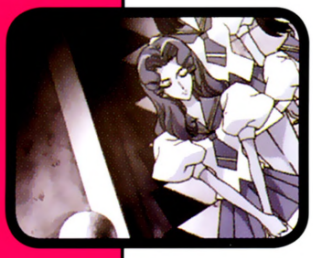


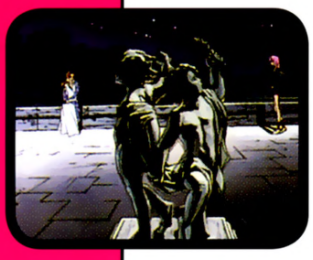


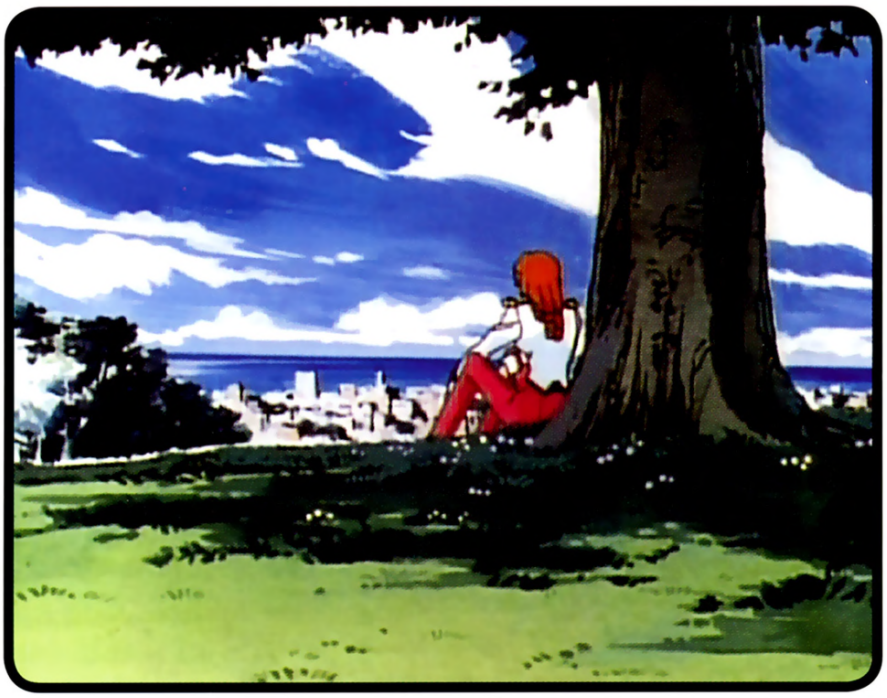












Does Jury disapprove of the power of miracles or has she given up on love — or perhaps Jury wants to disprove the power of the Rose Bride. Miki learns that Jury was once in love, and he is sympathetic. "It must be hard," he says, "when you can't tell them your feelings."

In a scene from the past, we see Jury fencing against a boy in the practice room, while another girl sits in a chair and watches. Jury defeats her opponent — Ruka, the handsome fencing captain. Ruka congratulates her, praising her abilities, and the girl, Shiori, offers Jury a rose. The three stand together — Shiori, Jury, and Ruka. Jury loved them, loved both of them hopelessly in different ways. Shiori was her best friend, and Ruka her dearest adversary. It was Shiori who told her, "Believe in miracles, and they will know your feelings. You were always first in his thoughts, Jury." Ruka loved Jury, but would never speak.

For Shiori, however, the situation is different. Shiori wanted Ruka for herself. She whispered to Ruka, "Did you know there is someone Jury loves? But that someone is not you." She took the boy from Jury, unconcerned with her friend's happiness. She never regretted her actions, even though she knew Jury must love Ruka. Now, she is convinced that Jury hates her for stealing away the love of her life.

In a way, Shiori was right, except for one small mistake — it was not Ruka Jury loved, but Shiori.

Along the road toward home, Utena spies Jury sitting outside on a bench in her bedclothes. Surprised, Utena sits next to her. She did not recognize her at first, but she is struck by how beautiful Jury is. Jury asks Utena about her school uniform, and Utena tells the story about her prince. She was so impressed, she wanted to be like him, so she wears the boy's uniform to be closer to him. Utena admits she doesn't believe in the Rose Bride's miraculous power, but she thinks she and Jury are linked by destiny.

Jury reaches up and touches Utena's hair. She leans forward to Utena, possibly for a kiss, but then she grabs Utena's hand and yells at her to throw away the Rose Seal. She declares that some guy tricked Utena into having "nobility!" If duelling for the Rose Bride is stupid, so are sentimental feelings for a prince! She insists that the only thing Utena has is false hope. She tries to pull the Rose Seal free from Utena's hand, but Utena throws Jury to the ground. Jury demands a miracle to prove her wrong — and calls Utena out to duel!

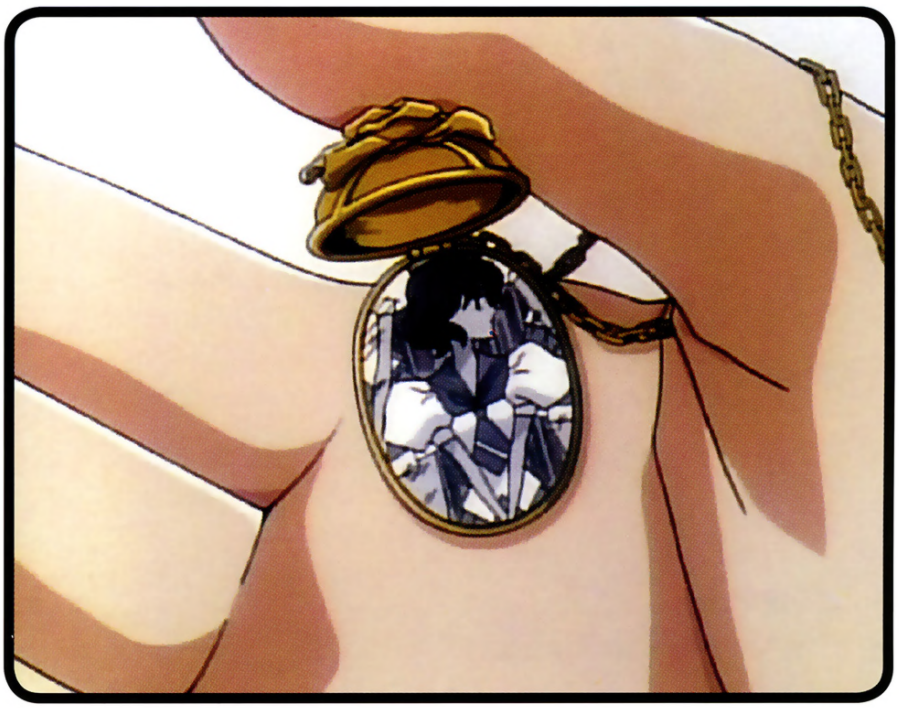
Anthy sits alone as the bells toll.

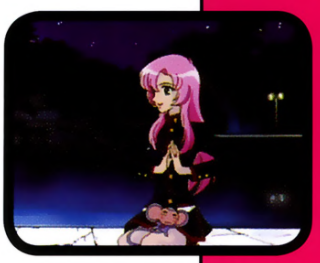
The Shadow Girls speak: "... going on trips? This year's trip is to the zoo! But the animals are boring! You really wanted to go, didn't you?"

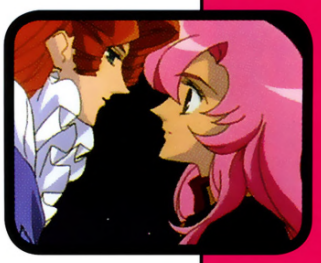
The two meet at the duelling platform, as usual. As Utena faces Jury, Jury demands a miracle, demands to be proven wrong, or else have Utena admit her folly. Utena is determined not to lose. Anthy summons forth the sword of Dios, and the bells toll.

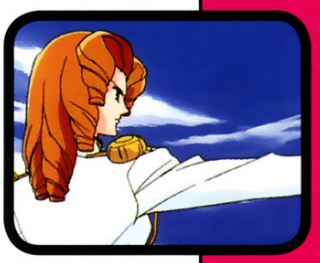
The two girls duel. Jury is clearly a more proficient fighter in the technical sense, and taunts Utena mercilessly. Where is this miracle? Where is this magic? The power of Dios possesses Utena, but even with the help of the prince, Utena is no match for Jury. Jury disarms Utena, the sword flying high in the air. She takes a moment to gloat before removing Utena's flower, but her overconfidence is her undoing. As the Sword of Dios comes down, it falls straight through Jury's flower without injuring her — Utena won the duel!

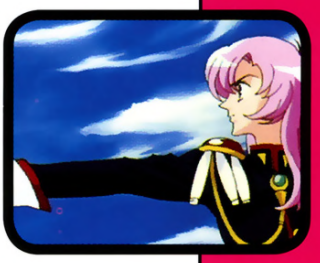
In the end, Jury cannot accept what happened to her. She claims it was an accident, that no miracle could have happened. Touga asks if she will still not accept that miracles can happen. Jury claims not to know if it was a miracle or not, but insists that if such a power does exist, she will be the one to hold it. The end of the episode shows Jury keeping the picture of Shiori in a locket around her neck, keeping her secret pain close to her heart.

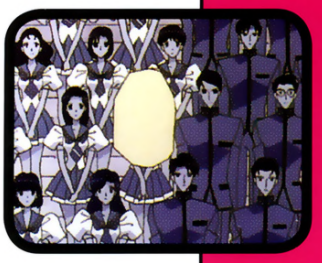




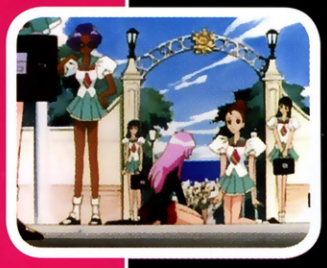








Episode: 08



Episode 8: Curried High Trip

Nanami cannot leave Utena and Anthy alone. She concocts a new plan: her followers sneak hot curry into Anthy's home economics project, making Anthy fail. When the curry explodes and Utena and Anthy swap bodies, Nanami must find curry to swap them back — or else her beloved brother Touga will never speak to her again!

Anthy and Utena are known for many things, but the one class they both excel at is their home economics class. Nanami's jealousy never rests, however, and she decides to sabotage their cooking in an effort to embarrass the pair. Nanami and her followers spy on the pair, and decide to swap ingredients when the two aren't looking. She sends her minions to make the swap, and awaits the results.

Just before the class starts, Nanami and her friends meet to discuss how it went. Nanami asks about the special ingredient, the curry powder. The minions insist they made a clean swap, with no one the wiser, substituting fire-breathing spicy special curry powder for the normal spice. Nanami cackles in delight, but one of her cronies suddenly realizes there may be a problem. Instead of fire-breathing curry, they swapped out something else. The minion holds up a box for the Secret Pa-Ohn Ultra-Spicy Nine Billion Fold Curry — magic curry! As they realize their mistake, an explosion occurs in the school!

Immediately thereafter, the Student Council meets. The Rules of the Rose Seal faces its greatest crises. Both the Rose Bride and the Engaged are hurt, an event not foreseen by End of the World. The council realizes that the two girls' lives may be in further danger. Miki feels guilty, as Anthy was making that spicy curry for him at his request. Touga does not blame him, however. Jury worries that End of the World's plans were destroyed by something as small as a cup of spice.

Meanwhile, the infirmary releases Anthy and Utena. Wakaba catches up and pounces on Utena from behind, as normal — but Utena goes down in a boneless heap! Wakaba is shocked and concerned, but Utena stands, brushes herself off, and tells Wakaba not to trouble herself. Wakaba is confused by the whole exchange.

Later, behind the Rose Garden, Nanami's girls taunt Anthy, telling her she's been acting weird, and that being friends with Utena doesn't mean she is immune to them. One of the girls slaps Anthy, and Anthy suddenly looks

very mad. Miki rushes to her side, but before he can reach her, Anthy slaps the girl back. The girls back off. Anthy hisses, "You've slapped me for the last time. Now, would you like to have a real fight?" The girls shake their heads. Miki is utterly shocked.

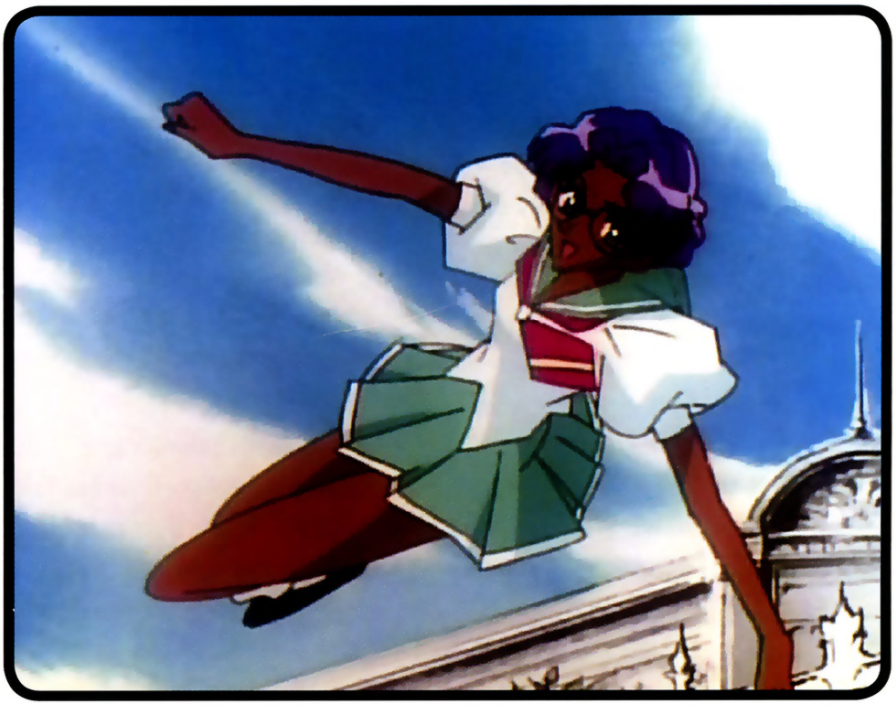
The changes in the pair are even more pronounced: Anthy plays basketball while Utena feeds the roses; Anthy runs track while Utena sips tea. It quickly becomes clear there can be only one answer: they somehow swapped personalities. Nanami's friends take surveillance photographs of Anthy and Utena that seem to prove their hypothesis. Nanami has no idea what happened, but it seems clear that the curry is at fault. Unfortunately, now everyone on campus thinks Anthy and Utena are even cooler than before.

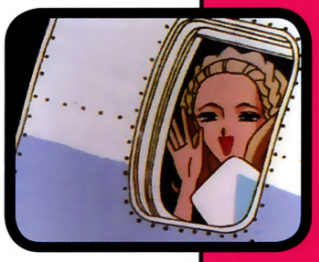
Nanami's friends sell their surveillance photographs, and Miki is distraught. Nanami demands to know what is so great about Anthy, while Touga examines the pictures, suddenly understanding the reason for their behaviours. He makes sure that Utena and Anthy learn the truth of their body-swapped conditions. Nanami takes the blame and begs her brother for forgiveness. She claims that she mixed the spice into the ingredients so Anthy could make a delicious curry!

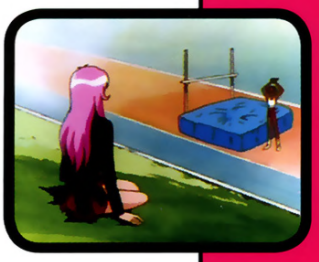
When they ask to be changed back, Nanami dissembles, saying that she would happily do it if she had more spice. Touga forgives her, but tells her that until she returns with more spice, she cannot return home. Nanami goes to her friends, but the spice is all gone — and it was imported from India, the only place it is grown. With a heavy heart, Nanami and her friends set off for India to appease Touga. The girls travel through India, best by elephants and enduring all manner of unpleasant conditions in search of that one, special curry powder.

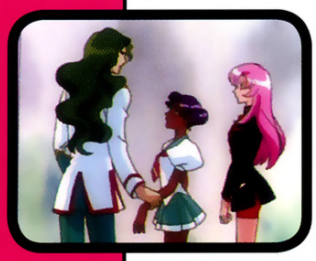
The Shadow Girls speak: "Hot terms for karma in the classroom. If you do something bad, bad things will happen to you!"

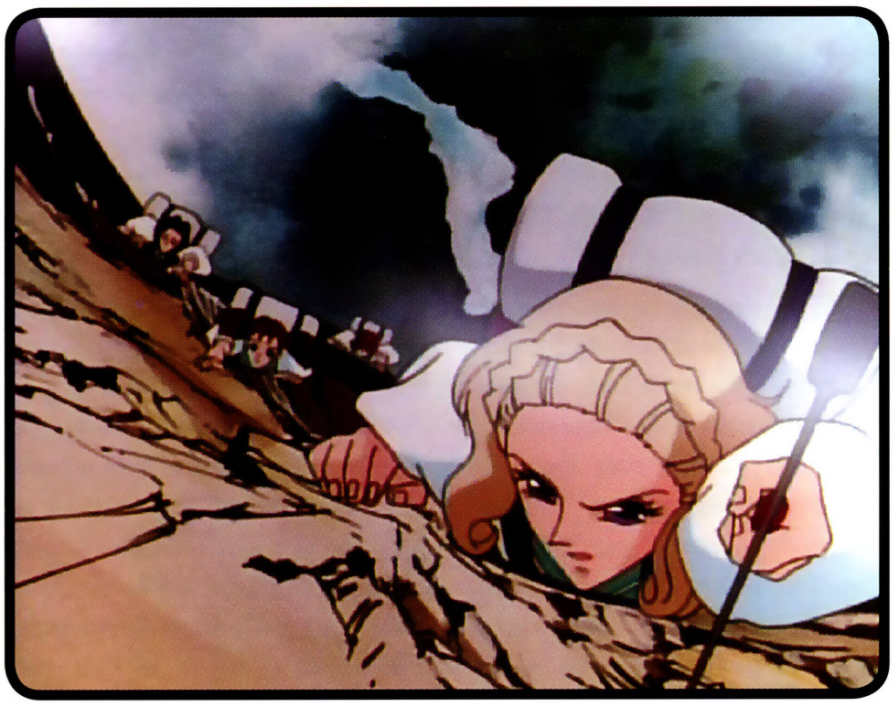
While Nanami is gone, Anthy and Utena each get a feel for what it is like to be in each others shoes. Anthy works out athletically while Utena looks on. Utena, in Anthy, complains about Anthy's body. Anthy, in Utena, has never been good at sports. Utena wants to get back to normal, and











Anthy assures her that Nanami is doing fine.

As Anthy, Utena is terribly unhappy. She does not want to be a sacrifice for the Rose Seal, and worse, Saionji is hitting on her, waiting to talk to her in private! Anthy, as Utena, does not bother to tell Saionji what happened, but instead takes advantage of their situations and waves goodbye as Saionji takes Utena-Anthy away.

Saionji takes Utena-Anthy to a darkened shed where they can be alone. Utena backs away from him, but he says he wants to do what they usually do. Saionji demands that Anthy keep the promise she made to him. He tells her that today is the day they explore their love for each other, that the bond between them is real, although fate is against them. Utena-Anthy is horrified at Saionji's words and expects the worst, especially when he opens his shirt and yells, "LOOK AT ME! Look at the real me!" Of course, she is greatly relieved when he just pulls out his *exchange diary*!

Back in the dorm room, Utena-Anthy stares at the exchange diary. She knows Saionji is sincere, and frets about what to do with it. She tries to foist it off on Anthy-Utena, but Anthy says she cannot write in it because, currently, she is not Anthy. She tells Utena that she must be sure to return that diary to him, because as "Anthy," it's her responsibility.

Utena is torn. She doesn't feel right about taking part in Anthy's private life, like an interloper. She does not want to butt in on Anthy's privacy, and tells Anthy is it not right for her to write in it. Anthy grabs the diary and throws it away, much to Utena's surprise. Anthy explains that she Anthy only wrote in the diary because Utena didn't say it was forbidden. If Utena says it is not right, Anthy can not write in it. Unwilling to forbid Anthy from writing to Saionji and seeing few other options, Utena rescues the diary and tries to answer Saionji like Anthy would.

Utena reads Saionji's love in the exchange diary, resigned to her fate. She discovers that he does care about Anthy in his own way, and feels bad for him — at least until she flips to a page and sees a picture of Saionji rescuing Anthy while he skewers the

ugly tomboy Utena. Her temper rising, she reaches for a pen.

Meanwhile, in the Rose Garden, Saionji and Touga are talking. Saionji dreams of a time soon when he and Anthy will resume their lives together, while Touga makes a typically snide comment. Saionji is defiant, however, saying, "Mark my words, Touga, the Rose Bride will soon return to me!" No amount of force can keep them from the true love they share. Not even the laws of the Rose Seal!"

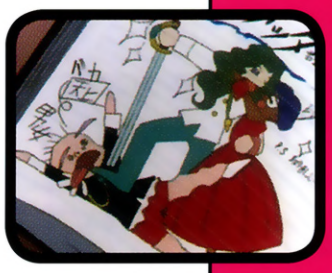
Just then, Utena-Anthy runs up with the exchange diary. Saionji opens the diary and starts to read it, only to be interrupted as Miki and Anthy-Utena arrive, announcing that Nanami and her friends have just returned from India. Touga, Utena, Anthy and Miki rush to Nanami, leaving Saionji alone with his diary. Nanami steps out of the car with the secret spice and everyone is overjoyed. Nanami runs to Touga with the spice in her hands — and slips on a Chu-Chu placed banana peel, spilling the spice across the sidewalk.

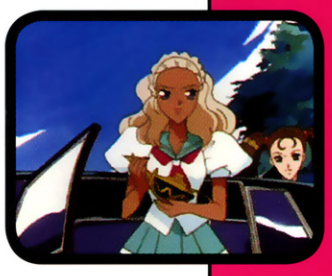
The crowd is horrified. Nanami mourns, as that's all the spice there was, anywhere. It takes 200 years to refine it, so that is all they will ever be able to find. Back at the dorm, Nanami cries. She retrieved the spice, yet she still failed. Utena dreads spending her life as Anthy, but then Anthy exits the kitchen with her special curry.

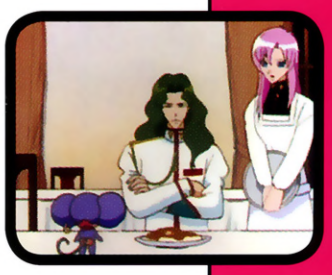
At the same time, Nanami's friends barge in with the ancient magic spice. They found it in the cooking classroom — it was never opened. The explosion wasn't from the spice, it was Anthy's cooking! Miki is impressed, while Nanami is dumbstruck. In the midst of it all, Saionji enters with the exchange diary, reading what Utena-Anthy wrote. He is angry and hurt, and yells at Utena-Anthy, declaring all of this to be Utena's terrible influence that has corrupted his love. He tells her that he will pretend it never happened, but only if Utena-Anthy declares her love for him. Before she can speak, however, Anthy-Utena serves him curry...

An explosion rips through the house!

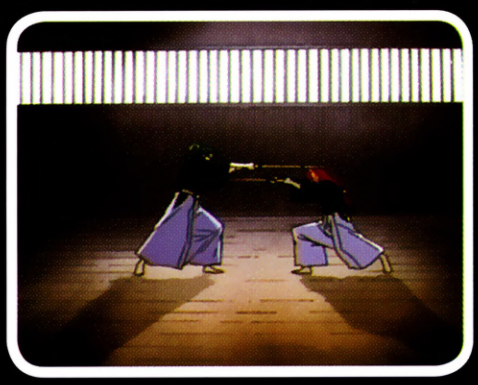
When Utena and Anthy wake up, they are back to normal and Utena never wants to eat curry again. Elsewhere, however, Chu-Chu practices with a tiny wooden kendo sword and Saionji climbs a tree and says, "Chu...."



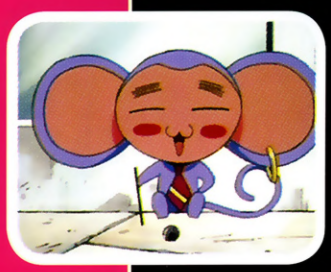




Episode: 09



Episode 9: Castle Where Eternity Dwells



Touga and Saionji are childhood friends. One day, long ago, they discovered a funeral and a very sad pink-haired girl. Touga rescued the girl from her coffin. That day, Saionji discovered eternity, and is unwilling to let it go. His obsession with the Rose Bride leads to a final clash on the duelling platform.

The episode opens to show Touga and Saionji duelling in the practice room as girls cheer. With a deft move, Touga wins, and someone calls Touga a prince. He smiles, and refers to Saionji as "old friend."

In the Rose Garden, Anthy tends the flowers while Chu-Chu torments a small bug. Saionji and Utena loiter outside, where Saionji yells at Chu-Chu: "Why must you always come between me and Anthy? Why?" He is really angry with Utena, though, and swears he will beat her the next time they meet in the duelling arena.

Utena wonders if Saionji can beat her, as Touga defeated him easily. What she doesn't know is that Saionji and Touga faced one another many times over the last ten years, and that he's won as often as he's lost. Saionji thinks back to a time when he and Touga were children, facing one another. He tells Utena that he won't lose to her or Touga, because he must possess the Rose Bride. When Utena asks him if he loves Anthy, he claims that he does. Utena asks why he keeps at the challenges if he can love Anthy outside the duelling game. Saionji's distracted answer is that if he does not, he'll never beat *him*.

Utena is confused, but Saionji is still lost in his reverie. In his memories, he remembers a time when the child Touga beat child Saionji. Touga then tenderly wrapped Saionji's hurt hand. They were friends.

In the present, Utena asks if Saionji means Touga. He dismisses her, telling her that he wants the Rose Bride as his lover for eternity, and that Anthy, too, desires something eternal.

Back in the past, young Saionji and Touga ride on a tandem bike. They're both sore – they should have quit at the 10th match. Sadly, Saionji is the only person who practices with Touga.

As they ride, they hear church bells. They stop and listen, then realise it must be a funeral. As the approach the church, adults ask them if they've seen a girl about their age. Her parents were killed and she ran away, or perhaps was kidnapped.

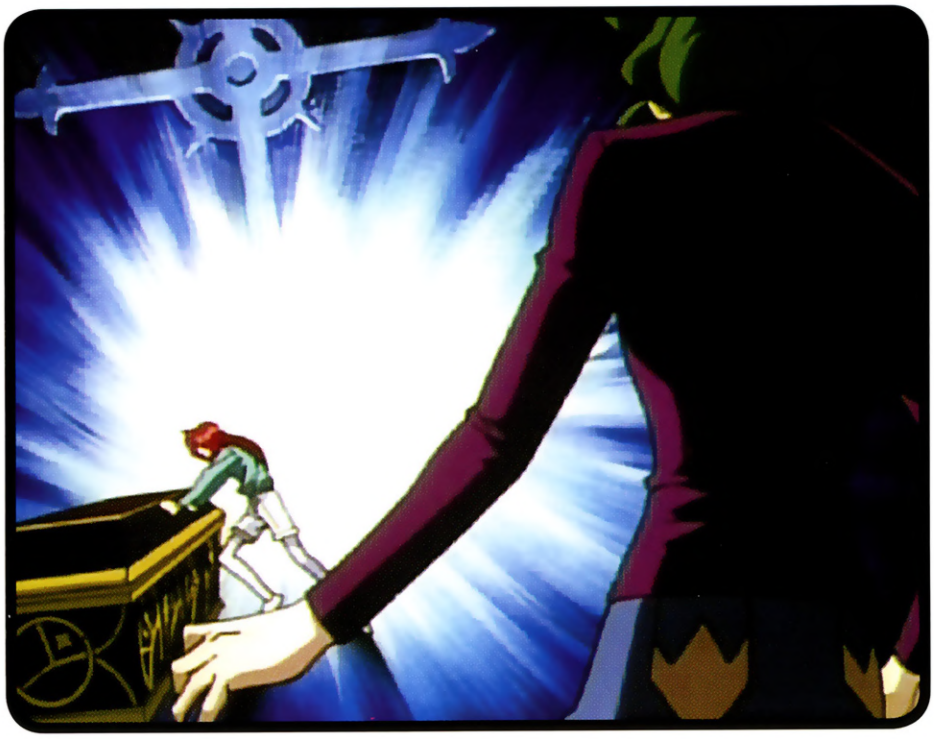
Young Touga and Saionji push open the door to the darkened church. Within rests three caskets, the Rose Seal engraved on their lids. Touga runs into the church as thunder claps, leaving Saionji behind. He thought he saw three coffins. He pushes open the leftmost lid, though Saionji begs him to stop. Inside the casket, a girl with pink hair lies on a bed of roses. She asks Touga not to open the casket, but Touga tells her that everyone is looking for her. He promises not to tell anyone where she is, though.

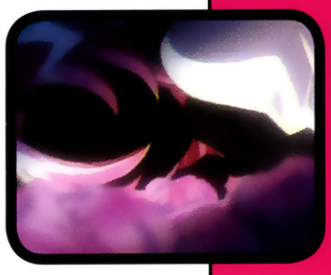
He asks her why she is hiding in the casket. "Because I belong here," she whispers. Her parents are in the coffins next to her. The church had an extra coffin — obviously meant for her. She does not understand why people go on living if they have to die, and refuses to come out of the coffin. Saionji tries to talk sense into her, but she refuses to listen. Touga ponders this for a moment, then walks out of the church. Saionji tries to stop him, but he won't listen. He tells Saionji that he must show her something eternal if he wants to save the girl — the wrap falls from his injured hand, and lightning from the rising storm crashes in the background. He has nothing to show her.

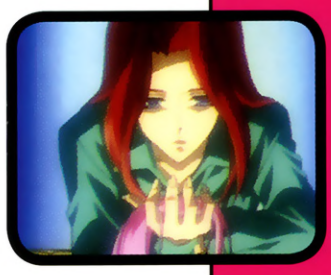
The next day, the girl left the coffin, something new in her gaze. When Saionji asks what Touga did to the girl, Touga only smirks.

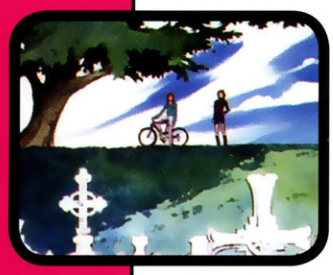
Inside, Saionji seethes. Touga has always been better than him, but one day, Saionji swears he'll win the duels and go to the castle floating in the sky. Something eternal dwells within it, and that something is his.

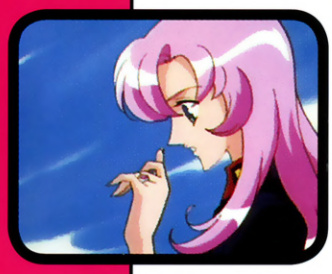
Later, at the Student Council, Jury tells the others that Utena met a prince as a child. She came to Ohtori Academy because she wants to be that prince. Touga wonders

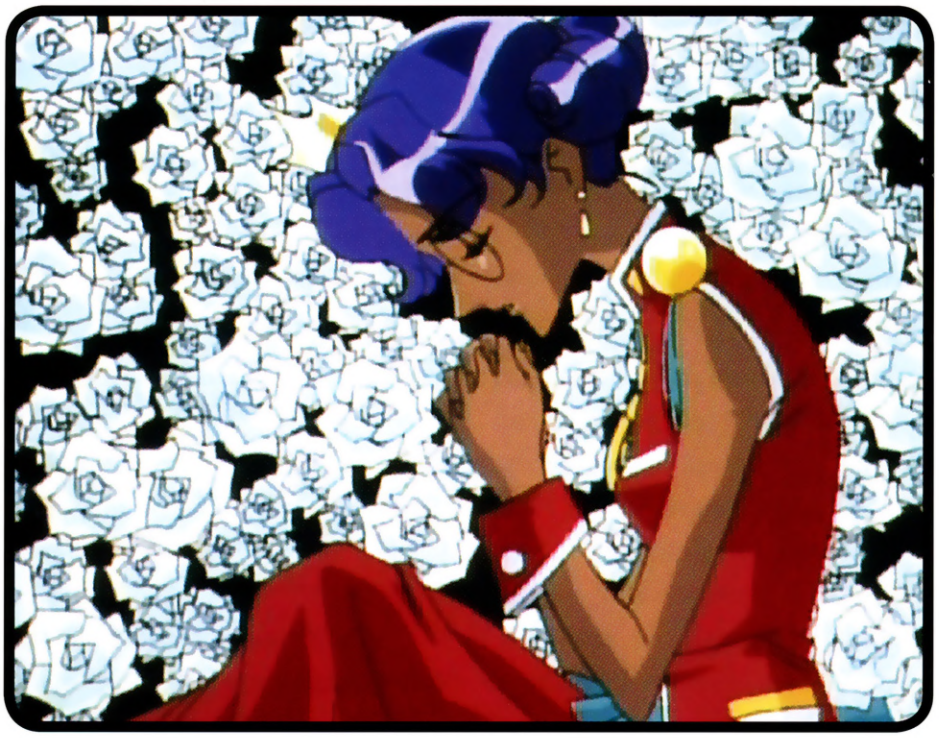












if it could be the same girl.... He finds her sitting among the roses, contemplating the Rose Seal on her finger. He brings her a cold can of tea and presses it against her cheek to surprise her. She yelps and he laughs, noting that she seemed lonely. When he asks what she was doing, she asks questions about the castle, wondering if it's a place where one could meet her prince.

Touga grabs Utena, disturbing her reverie, and questions her. He asks if her prince looked a little like him, and she reacts angrily. He lets go of her and she stalks off, leaving him to drink the tea alone and think. In the meantime, Saionji receives a shocking letter from End of the World.

The Shadow Girls warn: Everything exists in fantasies.

At the dorm it is dinner time, but Anthy is nowhere is to be found. Chu-Chu is hanging around, but no Anthy. Utena is frantic — it isn't like Anthy to be away in the evening. The phone rings and Utena answers it, only to hear a mysterious voice tell her Anthy was kidnapped. "Check out the duelling arena," it says.

At the duelling platform, Saionji is pulling Anthy along with him. She pleads with Saionji to stop, but he insists he is keeping his promise to her. Tonight, they are both going to the Castle Where Eternity Dwells.

Anthy begs Saionji, reminding him that it's forbidden for her to go to the arena with someone she is not engaged to — especially without a duel scheduled. Saionji pushes Anthy away, and says, "End of the World already told me that tonight the castle will come down." He smacks Anthy, and orders her to gain eternity with him.

Meanwhile, Utena chases after them to the arena. Halfway there, she trips and falls over Saionji half-drowned in a fountain. Utena rescues him and slaps him awake. Frantic, she demands to know where Anthy is, since he kidnapped her. Saionji tries to remember — kidnapped?

"Anthy? Where's Anthy?" He looks around, now frantic as well.

They stare at the open door to the duelling arena. Both of them run in and up the stairs. On the duelling platform stands a huge rose encompassing a coffin. The door opens, revealing Anthy lying on a bed of roses. Saionji tries to rescue her, but the coffin shoots out of reach atop a huge pillar. Other pillars sprout from the floor of the arena. One appears beneath Utena and thrusts her into the sky.

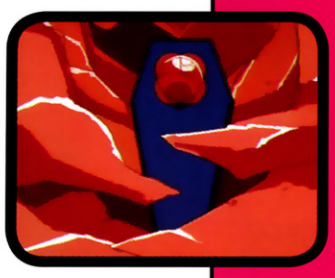
The castle begins to descend, and Saionji laughs and yells that he's ready for End of the World. "GIVE ME ETERNITY!" The pillars crumble as the castle falls on top of Saionji, killing him. Utena leaps from crumbling pillar to crumbling pillar in a desperate attempt to save Anthy. The rose coffin disappears and Utena leaps...

All at once, Saionji finds himself standing on the platform, alive. The castle still hangs in the sky "What's going on? What just happened?" Saionji falls to his knees while Utena tries to wake Anthy. In a sudden rage, Saionji grabs his sword. He was supposed to be the one to save Anthy — Anthy is going to the castle with him!

Anthy wakes, looking only for Utena. Utena begs her to tell what happened, but Anthy cannot remember. Saionji rears to strike from behind, raising his sword and bringing it down in an arc at Utena's back. Before he can strike, however, Touga appears between them. The sword hits Touga between the shoulder blades as he steps between Saionji and Utena. As he falls, Touga says, "I imagine your prince would have been a bit faster than me."

Saionji drops his sword and falls to his knees, lost and confused. He doesn't understand why any of this is happening, or why Touga was there. Touga replies smugly, "Because I'm chivalrous."

Later, at home and bandaged, Touga answers the phone. He says that he read the letter Saionji received, and it was in the mystery caller's name. He says that he was not badly wounded, and that Saionji has been expelled. It seems likely that he was talking to End of the World, but if that is true, who sent the letter?

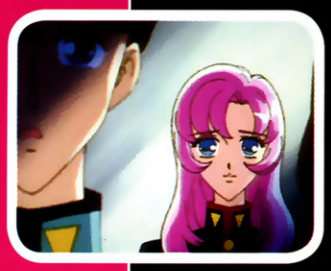


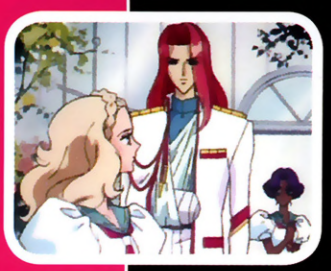
Revolutionary Girl Utena

Episode: 10

Episode 10: Nanami's Precious Thing

End of the World predicts one more Duellist to enter the game. While the Student Council wonders who it could possibly be, Touga throws a birthday party, where he introduces the final Duellist: Nanami. Nanami's secret hate and jealousy lead her swiftly to the duelling platform.





Everyone knows Saionji was expelled. Jury calls him a fool for having a personal duel without permission from End of the World. Is there no limit to his shamelessness? Miki thinks Saionji is different now. Jury calls him a joke. Saionji meets Touga at the exit of Ohtori Academy, where Touga tells Saionji he will try to get the expulsion reversed. Saionji hands Touga the exchange diary to keep safe. As Saionji walks off, he apologizes for the trouble. Touga calls out, "We're best friends, aren't we?" Soon thereafter, Touga pitches the diary into the trash furnace without a thought.

Not long after this, the Student Council meets. A letter from End of the World arrives, and the date is near for another duel. Touga should be next, but he is wounded, so someone else must go. Miki and Jury argue over who should fight, but Touga just smiles, telling the two that there is another duellist and shocking them both.

Meanwhile, Nanami finds Utena in the Rose Garden and attacks her. She slaps Utena across the face and accuses her of plotting to hurt Touga. Utena is still shaken, and simply apologizes, wishing she had been more careful. Nanami refuses to accept the apology, however. It takes Touga coming into the garden to calm Nanami, but even then, she will not forgive Utena. She stalks out, though Touga tells Utena not to worry.

Later, at the dorm, Utena worries about her ability to become a prince. Anthy enters

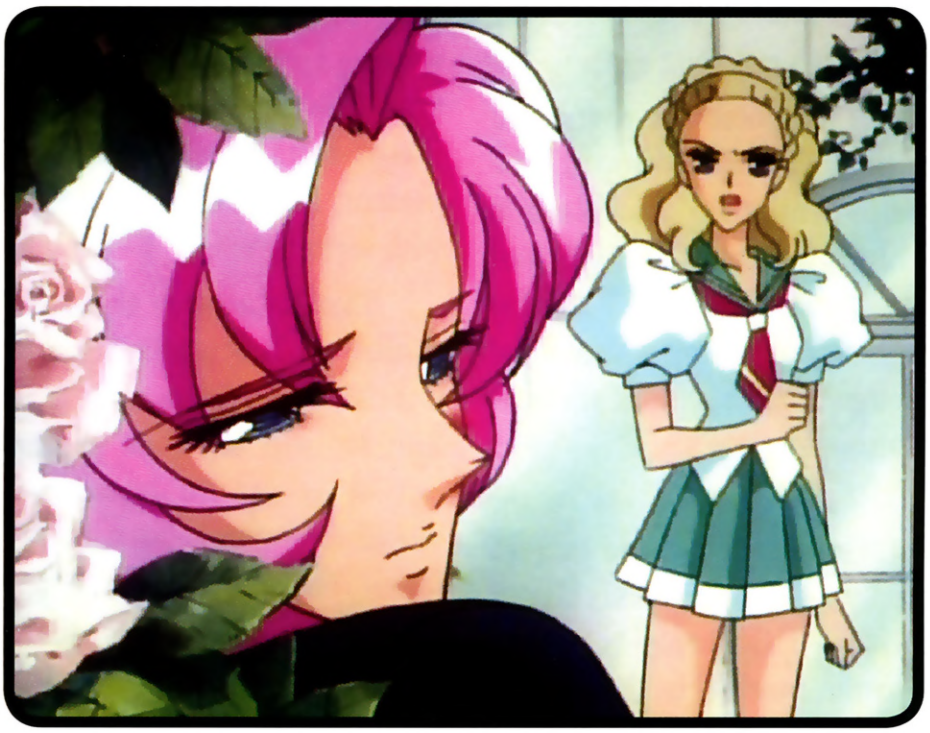
and turns on the light, and frets about Utena's down mood, and suggests she visit Touga. Anthy then opens a box and pulls out a yellow and brown kitten. While Anthy pours milk for the kitten, she also suggests bringing roses to Touga.

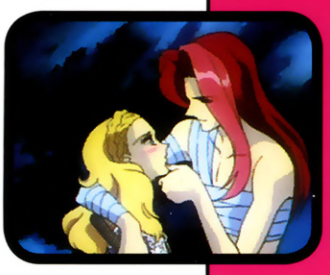
The scene changes to a flashback to a birthday party, at the Kiryuu mansion. It's Touga's birthday, and everyone is giving him a present. Nanami, coated in dirt, brings him a banged up box. Inside is a brown kitten she found and brought to him. Her parents try to take the kitten away, but Touga takes the kitten and thanks Nanami for the wonderful present...

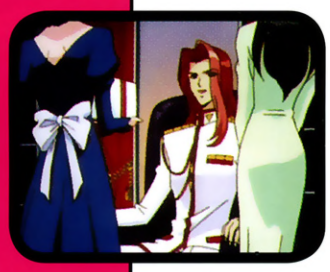
In the present, Nanami awakens to the sounds of sword practice. She goes out to the yard and watches Touga practice with a wooden kendo sword. Nanami pleads with him not to push himself. She cries, and he takes her in his arms, reassuring her that nothing will happen to him. Nanami asks Touga to kiss her, but he pushes her away and cannot: they are no longer children.

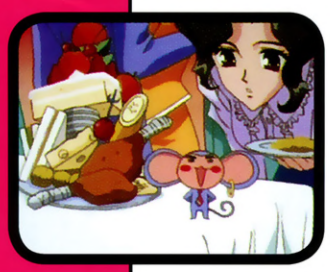
At the same time, Anthy and Utena try to see Touga at school, but he's out. A girl suggests they go to see him at his birthday party. Everyone who is anyone comes to Kiryuu Mansion to bequeath Touga with gifts. Utena is surprised and unprepared — she carries only the "get well" roses. Anthy, however, comes prepared.

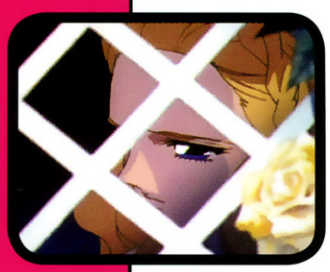
At the party, Jury corners Touga and demands to know about the other duellist. Touga pushes Jury away— it is neither the time nor the place. He refuses to speak of it, then trails off and turns to greet Utena. Touga trails off to greet Utena. Utena offers roses, saying she wanted to thank him for what he

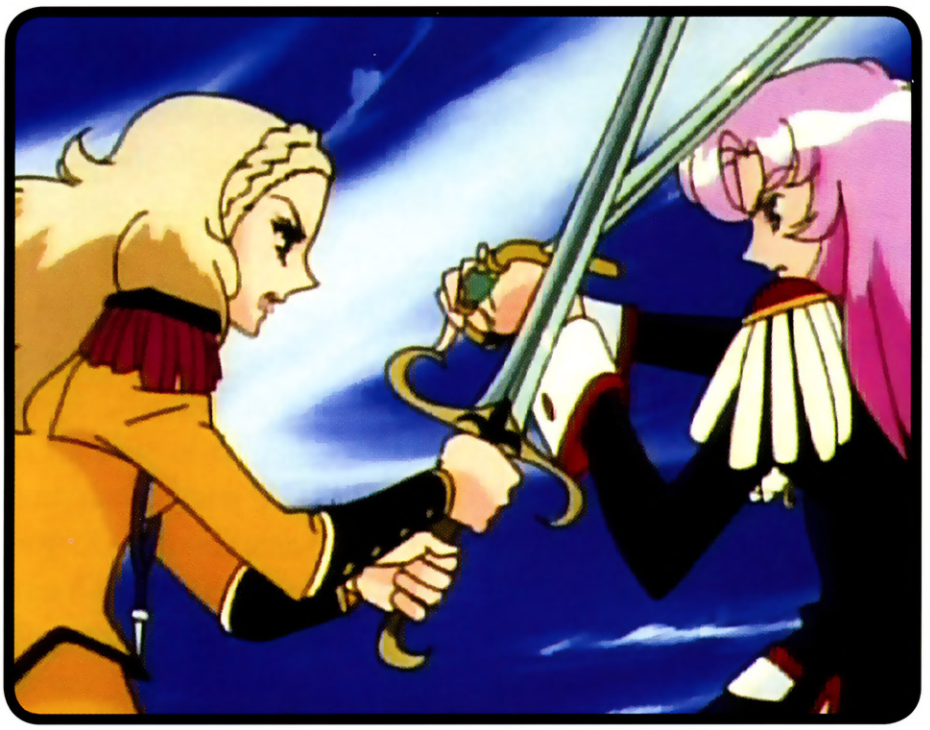












did. Touga laughs, and moves to accept the flowers, but Nanami is there before him and strikes them from Utena's hands.

Nanami confronts Utena, asking her if she believes these flowers will make him forgive her. Anthy steps between Nanami and Utena, only to have Nanami slap her and blame her for everything. From Anthy's present, a small squeak is heard, and Nanami remembers the birthday party long ago...

Utena becomes angry, and orders Nanami to stop it. She helps Anthy up, but Nanami only insists that she will not let Utena "have him." Nearby girls start to gossip – Utena and Touga? Utena insists there is nothing there.

Later, Nanami sits in the gazebo while Touga makes excuses to Utena for his sister's behaviour. Utena points out that if your brother is the world's greatest man, everyone else becomes just a waste of time. He asks if Miki said that, and Utena says, "Maybe." Touga tells Utena about the birthday long ago when Nanami gave him the kitten. The kitten disappeared suddenly one day, but of all the presents, that was the one he loved the most.

Anthy approaches Utena and Touga at tea, and offers the present. Inside is the kitten wearing a green ribbon. It climbs onto Touga's shoulder. Touga thanks them for the wonderful present, while Nanami watches with seething envy.

There is another flashback to the past, when little Nanami is talking to Touga. She asks him to help her pick apples, but he is not interested. He would far rather play with his kitten. Nanami hits the kitten, angering Touga, who orders her away. She begins plotting

then to dispose of the kitten and regain all of her brother's attention, just like before.

Nanami stalks into the house and threatens to fight Utena. Touga informs Nanami that the school has rules that must be followed. He slips a Rose Seal onto Nanami's hand, and explains that the only ones allowed to duel are those who wear the Rose Seal. Touga then sets the duel for the following night.

The Shadow Girls try to name the kitten.

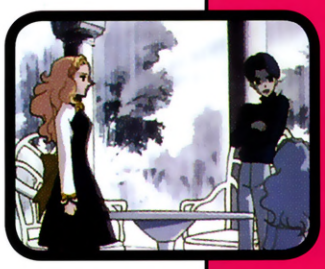
The scene moves to the arena, where Touga and Nanami stand while Nanami challenges Utena. Utena accepts and pulls forth the Sword of Dios from Anthy's chest. Nanami and Utena fight, and Utena finishes Nanami off swiftly and with ease.

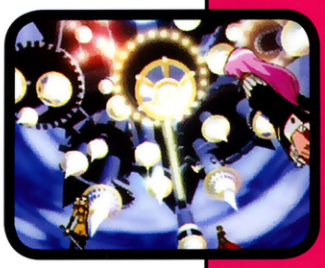
After the fight, however, Nanami pulls a dagger and comes at Utena. Anthy begs her to stop, telling her that the rules don't allow this. Nanami does not stop, however, but continues attacking. As Nanami comes in for a killing blow, Touga stops the fight with a word.

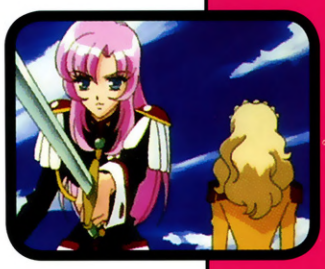
Back in the past, Nanami throws the box with the kitten into the river. She watches it sink. Just before it falls over into the sewer system, the kitten pokes its head out, but to no avail.

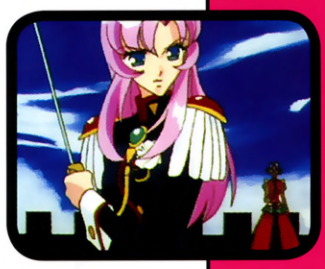
Nanami tells Touga she hasn't lost yet! Touga tells Nanami that he'll protect her. Nanami cries.

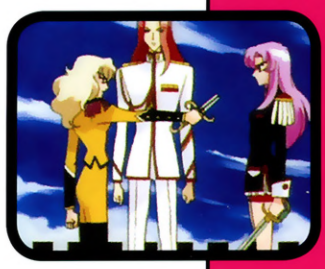
Touga tells Utena there is nothing to fear, because he is a prince. As he walks off, he thinks that now that he's planted the seeds, the power of Dios will surely be his.

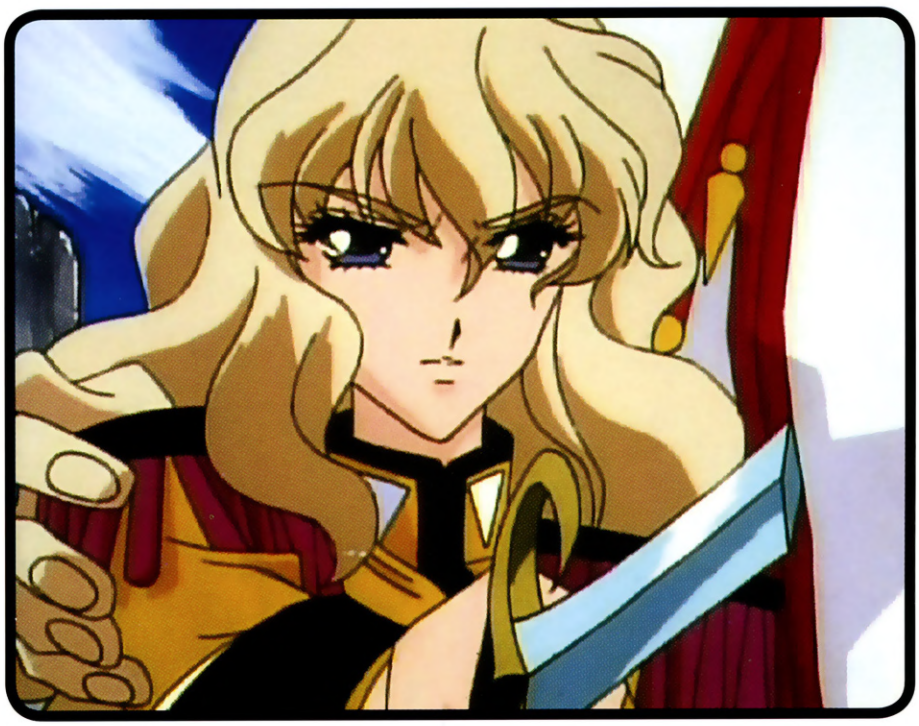




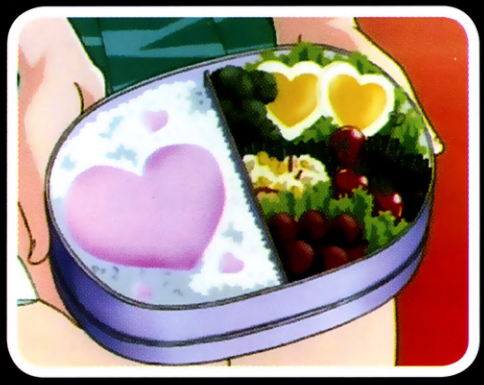


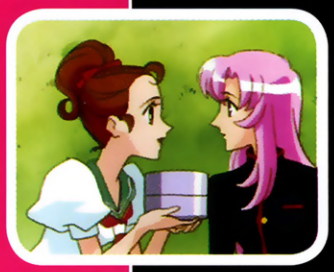






Episode: 11





Episode 11: Gracefully Cruel – The One Who Picks the Flower

Utena has only one challenger left: Touga Kiryuu. Touga waited patiently for the right moment before making his move, and the time is now. Touga planted the seeds in Utena's heart, linking him with her prince. On the duelling platform, Utena cannot fight the man she sees as her savoir.

As the episode begins, Utena and Wakaba sit on the side of a hill. Wakaba made lunch for both of them. Utena has a wimpy little sandwich, but Wakaba made her a box lunch to show her love for her beautiful Utena! Wakaba pounces on Utena, as she's given to do, and they both laugh. A bit later, Wakaba and Utena sit under a tree behind the school. Wakaba opens the boxed lunch. It is mostly instant, she admits, but so pretty! Utena thanks Wakaba, and the girl preens.

Suddenly, Anthy shows up with a giant boxed lunch, wrapped in a sack. The three of them open this gigantic three-tiered super-Anthy boxed lunch. The first level is *takoyaki*, the second level is *yakisoba*, and the third is empty, holding only a sated Chu-Chu. Utena suggests they share everything, but Wakaba argues. While they argue over which lunch to split, Chu-Chu helps himself.

From afar, Touga spies on Utena, Wakaba and Anthy through his spy glass. Miki demands to know what he's doing. "I was just looking at a lonely princess," Touga says. Miki thinks he is referring to Anthy, but Touga has someone altogether different on his mind.

Utena laughs at Chu-Chu stuffing himself and then looks up at the approaching figure of Touga. Utena is mesmerized. Girls flock to Touga, but he seems only to have eyes for her. "Oh, it's the Prince of the Student Council," Wakaba snorts with derision. Utena flashes back to when Touga saved her from Saionji, and wonders if he is her prince.

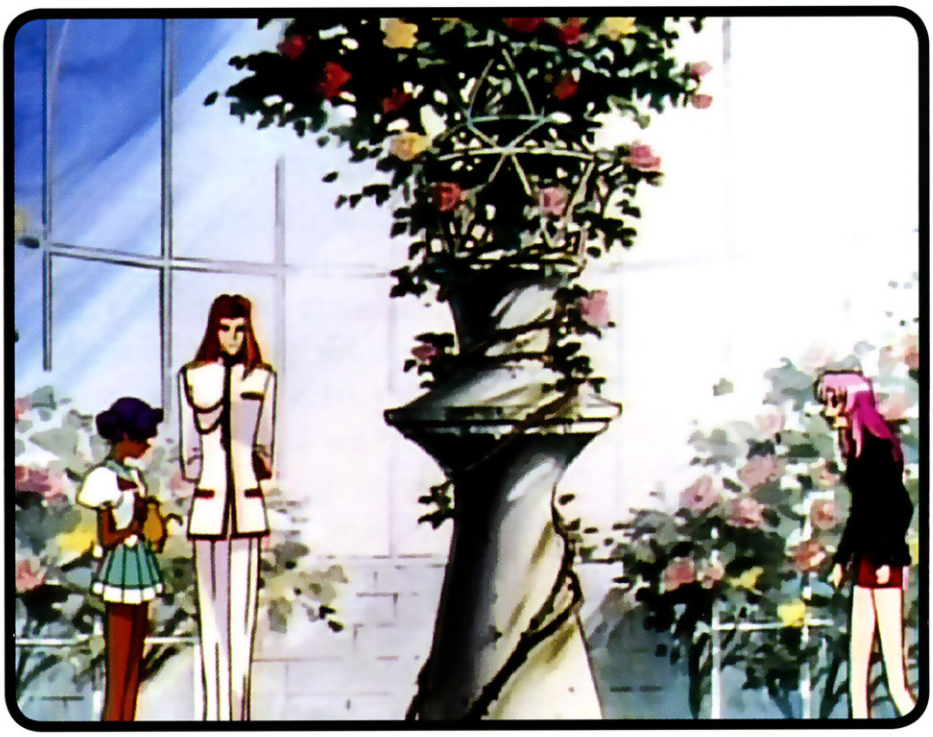
The Student Council meets, where it is announced that Nanami was defeated. Jury points out that Nanami fought only so she could lose. "All is plotted by Student Council president, Touga Kiryuu, right?" Jury says. Touga objects, saying that he felt it was very unfortunate. He claims that he was only trying to treat his sister well, but Miki compares his treatment of Nanami to how one treats a pet, not a sister. Touga refuses to accept any blame, saying that it is Nanami's own fault for losing, and that if someone is fooled, it is their own fault for allowing it to happen. Jury finds him cold and heartless, and he does not disagree.

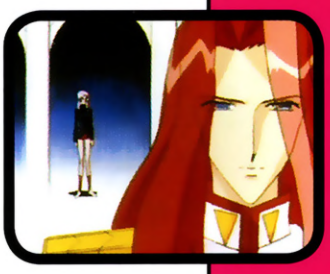
"If one has deep feeling for a person, it's only a matter of time before those feeling betray them. Betray them as strongly as those feelings are strong." Touga says.

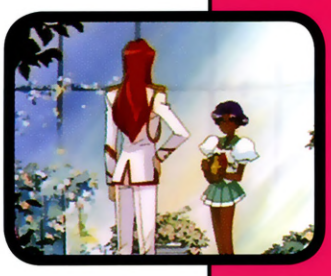
Later, Utena walks the school halls, pondering Touga. She spies Touga enter the Rose Garden and speak with Anthy.

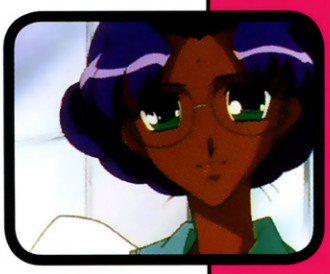
Inside the Rose Garden, Touga complements Anthy on her work with the roses. He mentions that he saw them all having lunch outside, and chides her for cooking. Touga tells her that all she ever has to do is tend the roses. "This birdcage is your domain, and you are the lovely little bird within it," he says. Touga desires possession of the birdcage, and plans never to let Anthy free.

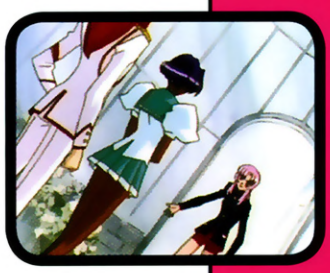
Utena comes to the rescue. She accuses Touga of only seeing Anthy as the "Rose Bride," while Anthy just wants to be an ordinary girl. So Touga, sneering, asks Anthy if she is just an ordinary girl. Before she can answer, Utena asks if Anthy hates being the Rose Bride. Anthy is not sure what to say. Utena then "orders" Anthy to tell Touga that she hates being the Rose Bride. Anthy just repeats it — as ordered. Touga laughs. After all, Anthy is Utena's bride.

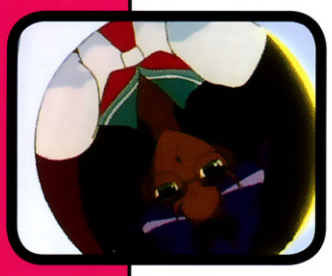


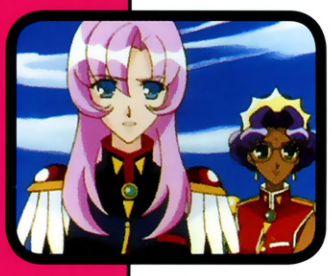


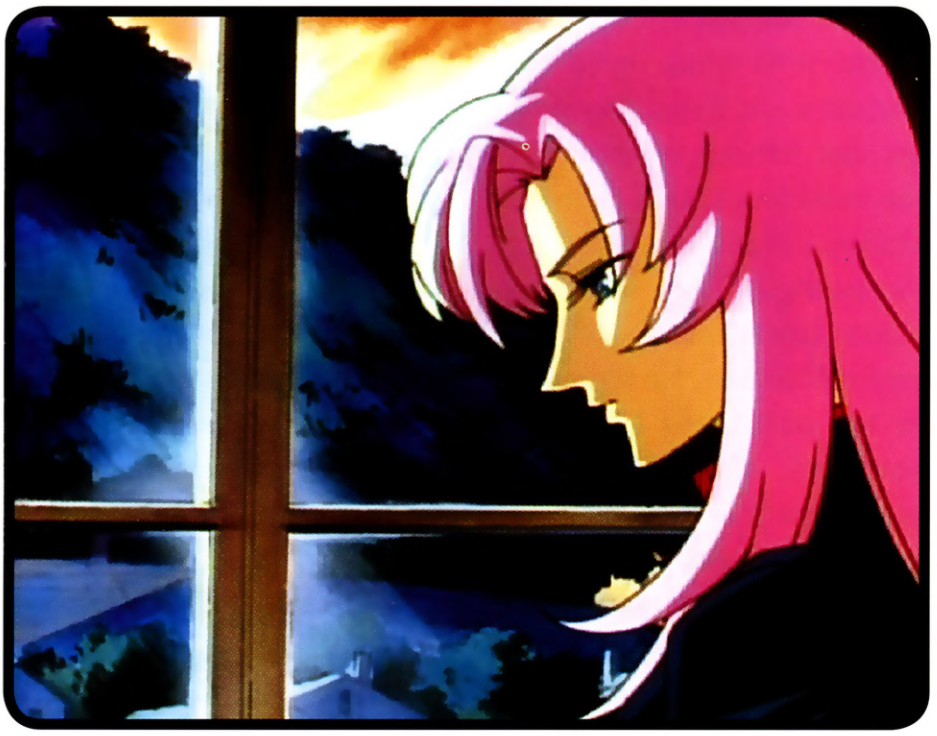












Utena demands to know what Touga wants with Anthy, but he insists that his business is not with Anthy, but with Utena. He says that as her prince, he feels he has something important to tell her. Utena now believes that Touga is her prince, and wonders if it was Touga who saved her. Touga asks if she wants proof, and she does. He then walks up and kisses her. After a moment, Touga pulls away, apologising and saying that the kiss was inappropriate — they should not act that way in front of the Rose Bride. Utena blushes, embarrassed, but doesn't argue. Touga then challenges Utena to a duel.

Later that afternoon, Utena stands by the window outside her dorm room, worrying about Touga. She had forgotten he is also a duellist. She is confused and torn. On the one hand, she came to this school to meet the prince. On the other, the only link she has to him is what forces her to fight Touga... who may be her prince anyway. She finds herself wishing she could escape the whole thing.

Anthy opens the door and offers tea. They drink, and Anthy cheerfully wants to know how Utena feels about her lunch. Utena distractedly says she found it well, and Wakaba liked it too. Anthy comments that Wakaba is fun, and Utena suggests that Anthy makes friends with Wakaba. Anthy looks suddenly dismayed, then Utena realizes her mistake and says, "That's right, you have Chu-Chu. He's as fun as ten people!"

Surprisingly, Anthy tells Utena that she wishes she had more friends, like Utena does. For the first time, Anthy expresses a need to be separate from the Rose Bride. Utena tells her to open her heart, and she will help. Anthy gazes into her tea and says, "I will."

The Shadow Girls play William Tell and the Apple. "How long are you going to do

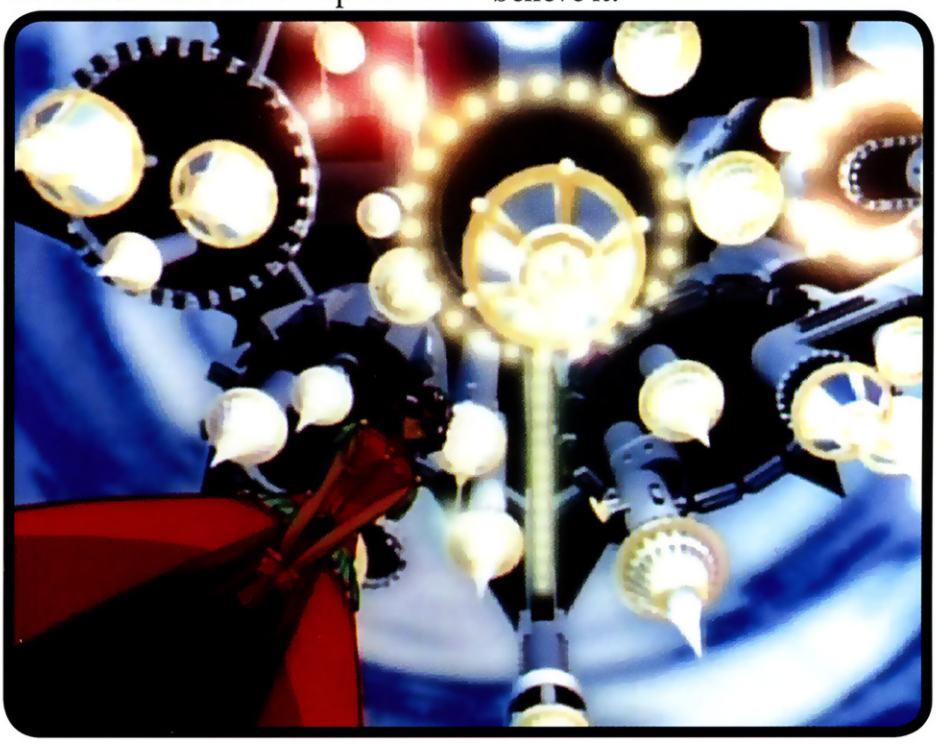
this?" "Oh, stop thinking for yourself!" "Do you know, do you know, do you really know?"

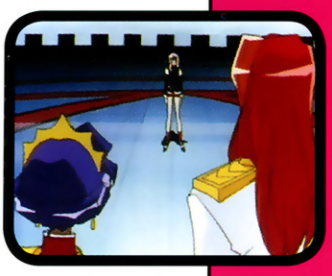
The next day, at the duelling arena, Utena steps forth in her prince's clothes with trepidation for the first time. She takes Anthy's hand to offer herself a small bit of comfort. Touga is waiting. He draws his sword despite her obvious reluctance, and tells her that it's time to take her precious bird. In response, Utena draws the Sword of Dios.

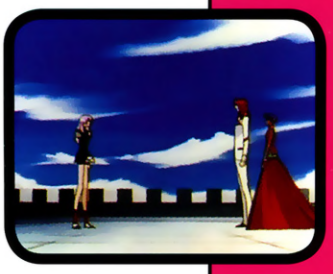
The duel begins poorly for Utena. She rushes toward Touga and he shrugs her off. Touga accuses Utena of amateurish swordsmanship but, "the real answer comes when the Power of Dios manifests itself." Touga moves for a final killing blow and misses — although his shadow scores a hit right through hers. Touga demands to see this Power of Dios — which Utena dutifully manifests. Touga watches it with great interest as they start their last pass. Suddenly, Touga stops. He stands with sword tip down. Against her prince, Utena can no longer fight. She loses.

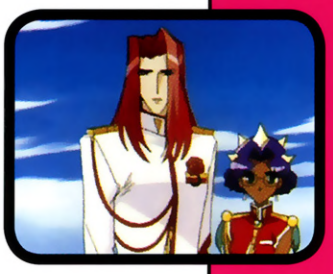
Touga mocks Utena's unwillingness and starts to take Anthy away. Utena pleads with him not to take Anthy, to let her help Anthy be a normal girl, but he only tells her she's being stupid. As an object lesson, he asks Anthy if she is happy being the Rose Bride. Anthy says automatically that she is happy being the Rose Bride and she does not need friends. She likes being alone.

Touga then explains that Anthy is the bride of whomever wins the duel, and that Anthy was only following Utena's commands. "The Rose Bride answers her master's wishes." The wish to make her a normal girl was just Utena's wish. Now that she has lost the duel, she has no connection to Anthy. Utena doesn't believe him, and begs for Anthy to tell Touga the truth. Anthy merely says farewell as Touga bids her to do, though. Utena is crushed, and cannot believe it.

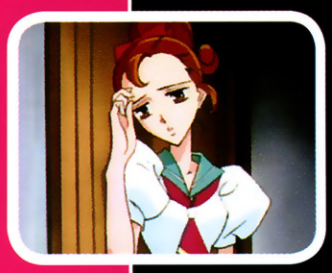


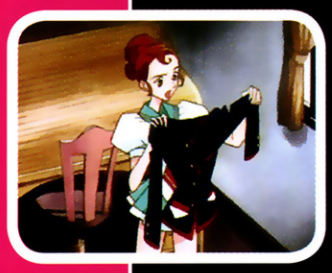


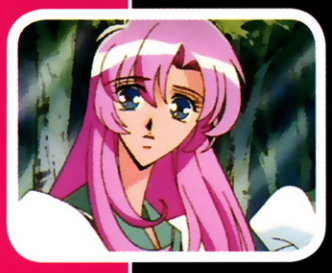




Episode: 12







Episode 12: For Friendship, Perhaps

Utena lost her duel with Touga, and now she wants to separate herself from everything that makes her uniquely Utena: her uniform, her duels, and her outgoing nature. Wakaba convinces Utena not to give up hope, though, and to face Touga one more time.

The day after Utena's duel with Touga, Wakaba notices that "her prince" is not in any of her classes. She goes to Utena's dormitory and pounds on her door, but Utena does not answer. She sits in bed, despondent. On the door, Anthy's name is taped over. Finally, Wakaba enters and finds her there, asking if Utena is sick and where Anthy is.

Utena remembers Anthy packing and leaving the night before, but doesn't say anything. Wakaba becomes more and more concerned, demanding to know why Utena skipped class, but Utena mumbles that it is nothing. Wakaba realizes something is wrong, then spots Utena's trashed boy's uniform. Wakaba offers to fix it, but Utena says she has another. Wakaba leaves her friend alone, hoping everything will be better in the morning.

The next day, Utena walks to class in a normal girl's uniform. The girls all gush, but Utena pays them no heed. Wakaba does not approve in the least, but Utena defends herself, saying that it is the normal uniform and what she will now wear. On top of this, Anthy passes by, greeting Wakaba and Utena in a cold and formal way. As Anthy leaves, Wakaba demands to know what is going on. Utena tells herself that she has to be normal. "It was a fight, wasn't it!" Wakaba shouts, and insists that Utena to not be so gloomy. Utena wanders to class.

The Student Council meets. Touga is engaged to the Rose Bride. Miki has nothing to say, but Jury wants to know how he won. Touga insists it was skill, but Jury disagrees, accusing him of plotting. Jury is still waiting to see what comes of it all, but Miki is depressed by the

outcome. Anthy offers to wait outside, but there is no need. Touga wants her there, because she is his Bride. "I want you at my side, always," Touga says.

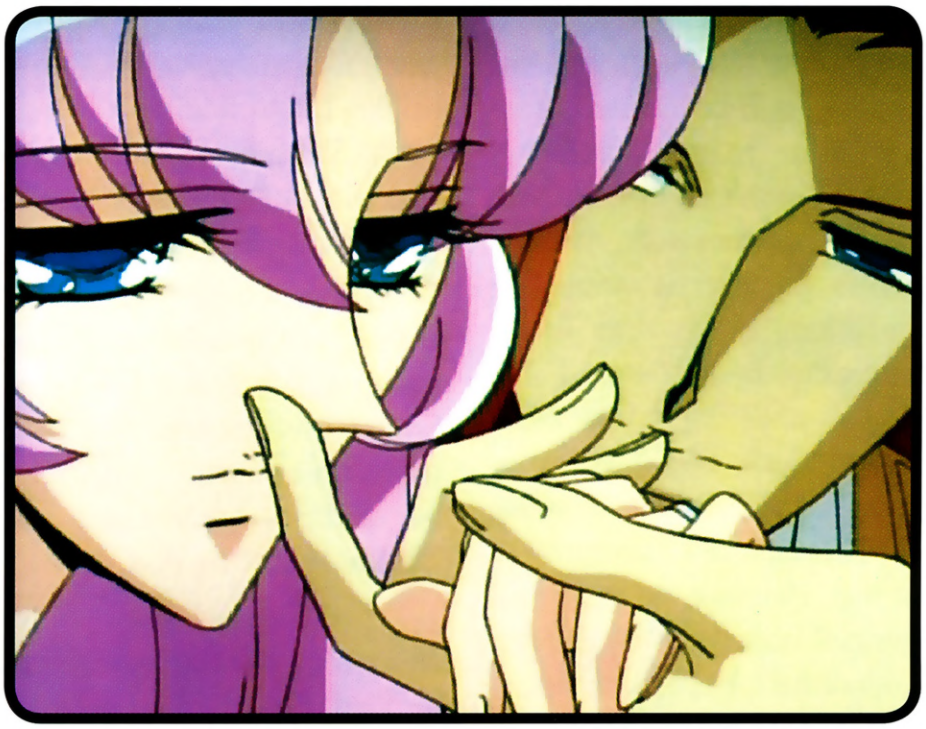
In the cafeteria, Wakaba argues with Utena. Wakaba protests, insisting that there is something wrong. Utena does not respond. Wakaba sighs in exasperation. "If you don't tell me what's wrong, I'll never speak to you again!"

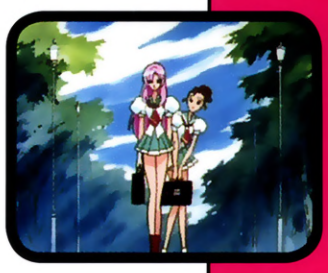
Touga shows up then with Anthy in tow. He has heard the rumours, of course, but it is still a shock for him to see her in her girl's uniform. Utena perks up a bit at the sight of Anthy, but does not speak.

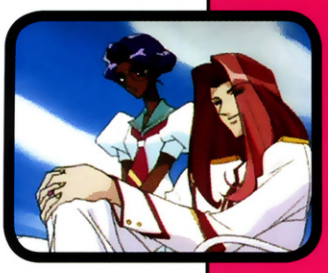
Touga asks Utena out to dinner on Sunday. Utena does not respond. Touga wraps an arm around her, and asks why she will not answer him. He fondles Utena while Wakaba yells, "Get your hands off of my Utena!" Wakaba grabs a glass of water, and tries to splash him, but hits Anthy instead. Wakaba apologises... but it was Anthy's own fault, as she is standing there dazed. Wakaba loses her temper then, accusing Anthy of hurting Utena.

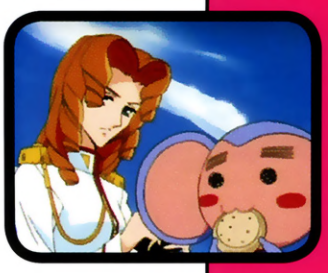
Utena slaps Wakaba for what she said — the first proactive thing she's done since losing to Touga. Wakaba hits Utena back, both frustrated and relieved that something can still get through to Utena. Touga is amused, and makes snide comments to Utena about seeing her alone next time. As Anthy and Touga turn to leave, Utena hands Anthy a handkerchief. Anthy politely thanks Utena and turns away.

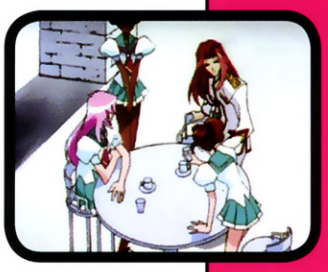
Afterward, Wakaba keeps fighting with Utena. Utena wants Wakaba to stop criticizing her, but Wakaba refuses. Utena refuses to talk to her friend, believing that she doesn't understand anything of what happened. Wakaba does not accept this, however, and swears she will not stop. Finally, she leaves, upset and angry.

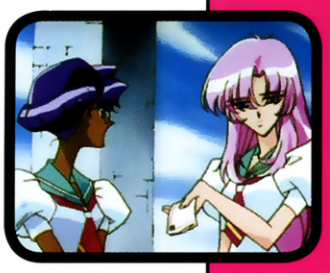


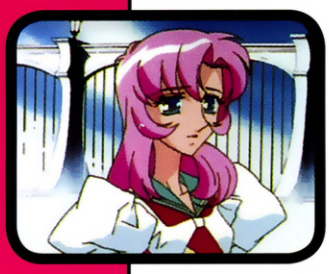


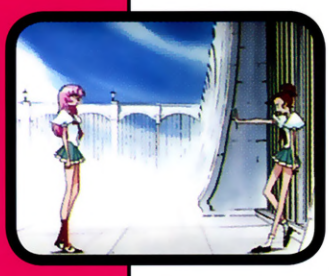


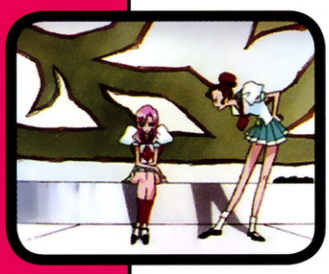


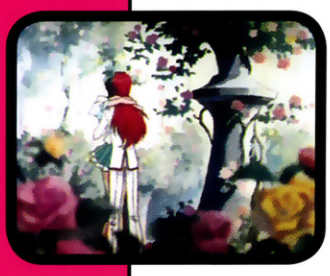


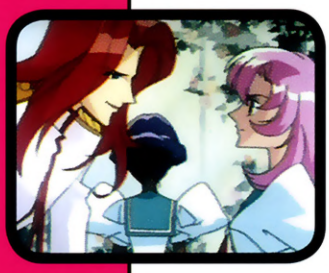


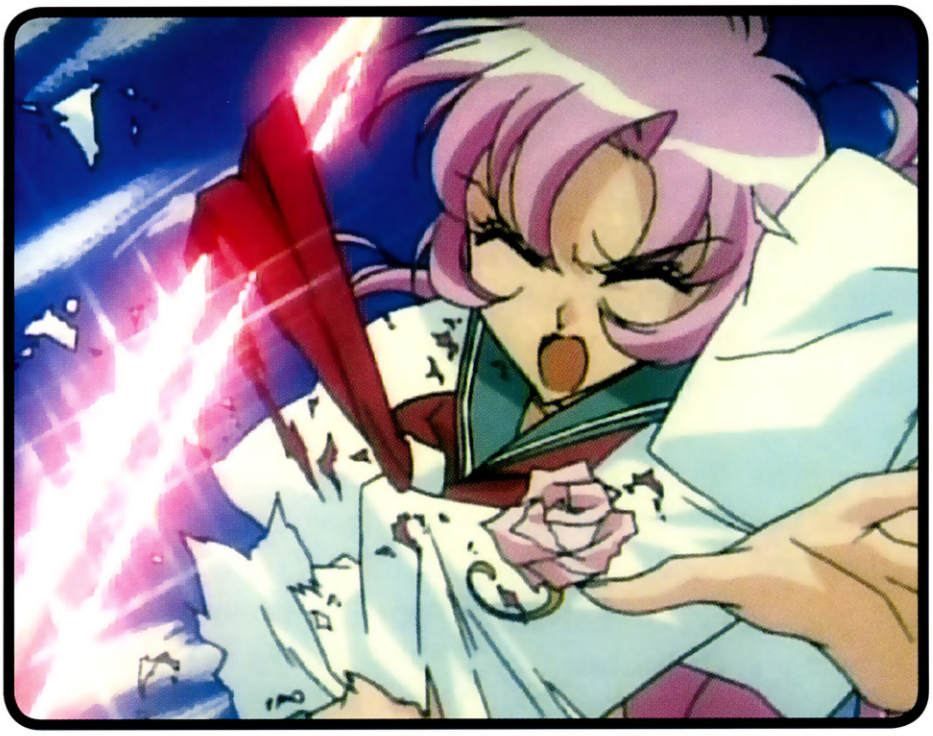












Back at the Student Council tower, Touga and Anthy have tea. Touga talks spiritedly on the phone while Anthy sits dazed. Touga hangs up the phone and tells Anthy to wait for him. He leaves Anthy alone on the deck of the tower. Anthy stares at the empty chair across from her, and imagines Utena sitting at tea with her. She gazes down at the monogrammed handkerchief fondly.

Wakaba stands alone at the gates to the school, as Utena approaches from behind. Utena has come to apologise, but Wakaba won't let her. Instead, she insists they talk. Wakaba knows whatever is wrong has something to do with Touga, something he did or said. She doesn't understand why Utena has suddenly begun acting so strangely, though, like adopting the girl's uniform. Utena protests at that, claiming the uniform is normal! Wakaba insists that it is not normal for Utena, though.

Wakaba's insistence begins to break through Utena's daze a bit. She remembers Anthy moving out and begins to feel angry again. Wakaba can tell she's holding back, though, and yells at her for it, calling her a coward.

"You've got to get it back! Take it back! That uniform isn't you!" Wakaba protests. Utena asks for Wakaba's forgiveness and apologises for slapping her. Utena kisses Wakaba on the forehead, and thanks Wakaba for helping her to find her true self again. She goes to find Touga, who is in the Rose Garden kissing another girl.

Touga chases the other girl off as Utena bursts in. He smiles, still believing her to be beaten. He suggests that they might speak alone on Sunday, but she has a different idea, and challenges him to a duel.

The Shadow Girls know about being normal, "and this is my kind of normal."

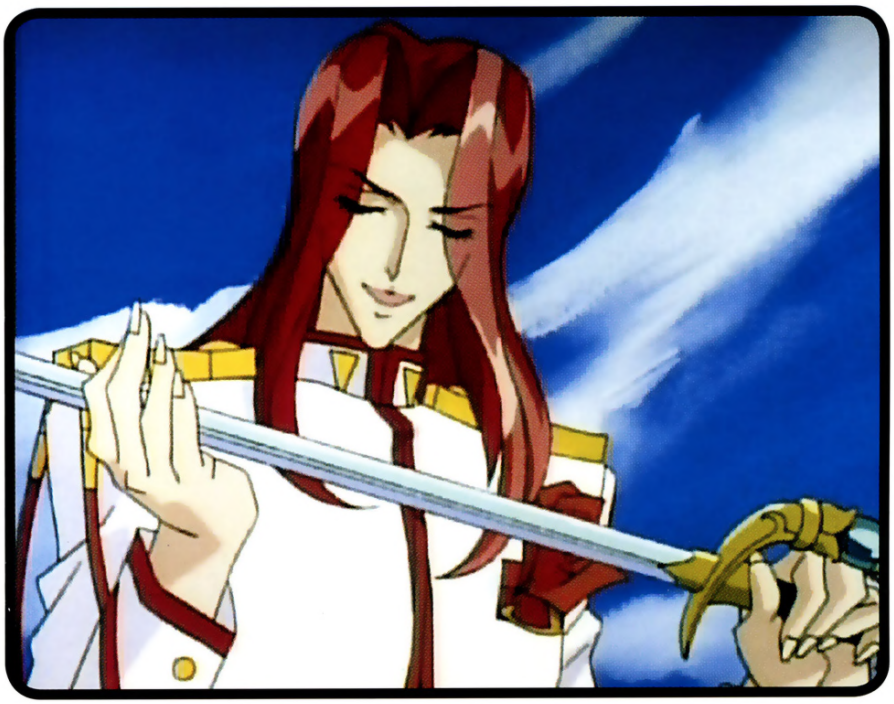
At the duelling platform, Utena enters wearing her girl's uniform, sword in hand. The sword was given to her by Jury, who tells her, "You'll need this to properly set the last scene." There, she faces Touga, who taunts her with her former loss.

As always, Anthy summons the Sword of Dios, and Touga draws it. This time, however, he shows Utena a new use for it, instructing Anthy to, "abandon your body and protect the sword!" She bows and kisses the sword, infusing it with great power. Touga shows Utena how the sword can now destroy a piece of the wall with a casual flip, calling it "the power of the Rose Bride of Dios."

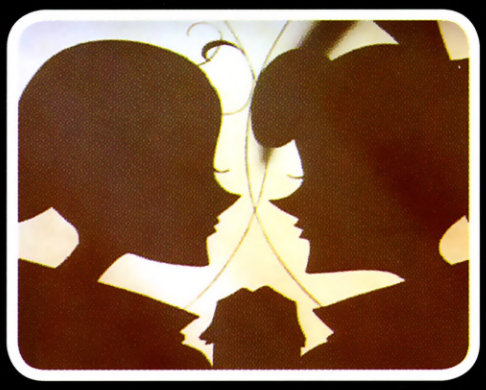
Utena and Touga begin to duel, only this time we see Anthy's view. She half-expects it to end quickly, but it doesn't. They fight on even after Utena's sword has been destroyed. Touga systematically destroys Utena's girl's uniform while shouting, "Do you understand this sword? This is the power hidden within the Rose Bride. You fancied yourself her prince without even knowing about it?"

With only a hilt, Utena holds off the Sword of Dios, determined to take back what she used to be. "Pathetic," Touga says. Deep in Anthy's soul, however, she cannot help but hope that Utena will win. With that small hope, the spell on the Sword of Dios is broken. Utena's kindness to Anthy turns the tide of the duel, proving it can triumph over the rules of the game. While Touga is surprised, Utena throws him off and they have a final pass. Utena wins. As she stands there in the shreds of her uniform, she says, "I have taken back what I was."

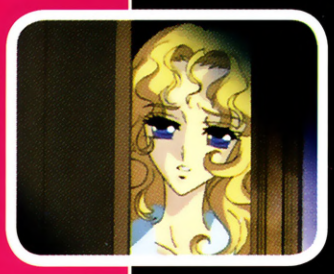
That night, Utena walks home. On the way, she meets Anthy, and together, they walk off into the night.

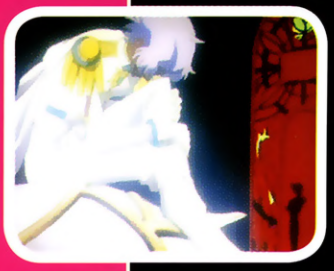


Revolutionary Girl Utena



Episode: 13





Episode 13: Tracing a Path

End of the World enters the Castle where Eternity Dwells and reviews the last duels with Dios, the Prince. Utena, the new champion of the duels, is well on her way to the duel named Revolution. There, End of the World reveals the meaning of the duels and prepares the way for the Black Rose.

The Shadow Girls speak: "The nosey hero has won yet another duel! Might makes right, and losers smelled like old fish, and the winners walked away looking like a lily! But brave hero, you may called back to the path once more."

Touga plays the tape of the Student Council message. His own voice wafts out of the recording while Nanami watches through a crack in the door. On hearing the disappointing news of Touga's ultimate loss, Nanami slinks away.

Onto the floor of the duelling arena steps someone new – someone with dark skin and purple hair: it is End of the World. He looks up at the Castle Where Eternity Dwells and smiles. The castle accepts him, and he floats up and enters.

Within the castle sits the Prince of Dios on his egg. "You still haven't awakened?" End of the World says to Dios. "Is the egg's shell still unbroken?" An hourglass runs out. "Even the Student Council President failed to beat her. Her seventh trial so far," End of the World says while standing beneath a window labelled *soi*. Self. "Did seeing her defend the Rose Bride, even while wounded, move you?" Even the heart of the Rose Bride was moved a bit. "I suppose seeing that gave you hope."

No. He felt hope with the first duel: *Amitie* — Friendship. The scene shows how Utena duels Saionji for the first time for the honour of her best friend, Wakaba. Utena is lost and confused by the battle, but her drive to protect her friend lends her strength. Saionji falls to Utena's sword.

Dios continued to hope through the second duel: *Choix* — "Choice." Utena fights the second battle with Saionji. Utena did not have to pursue the duels, and swore she would quit, yet she fought, and won. Saionji fell to Utena's sword, and ever since that day, the seal on the Power of Dios has begun to crack.

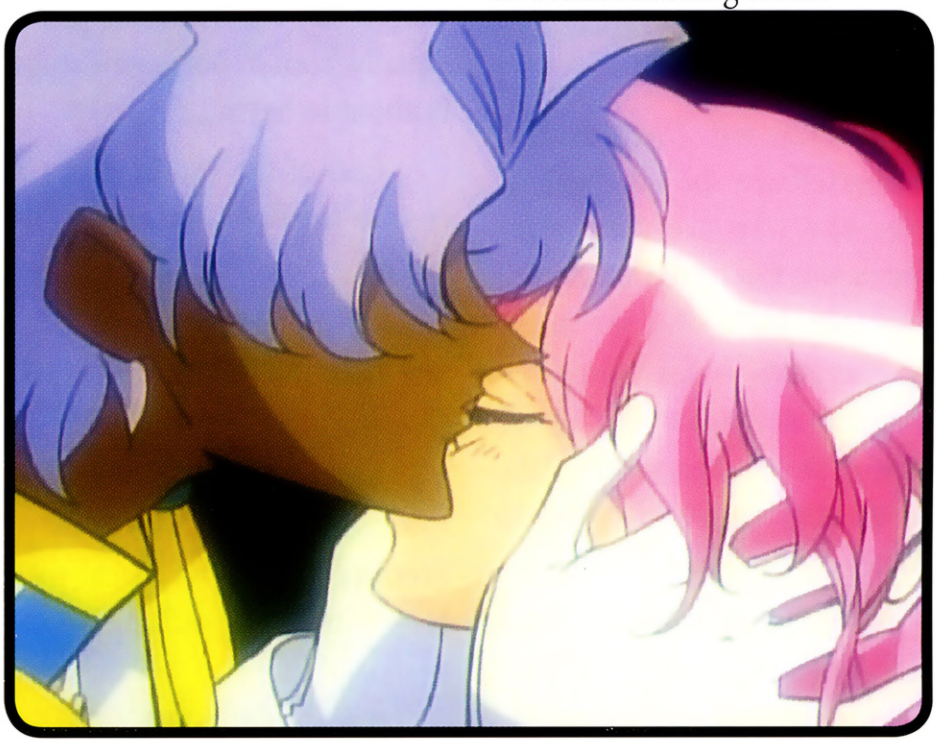
That power, all of the Powers of Dios, the power of miracles, could be revived with Utena. She needs to continue winning, and winning well.

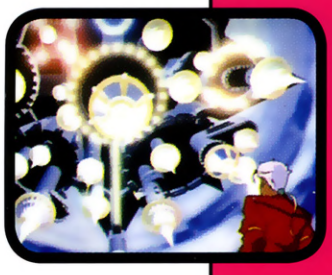
The battles that followed were personal. Next came *raison* — Reason. Utena fought Miki over Miki's misplaced good will. Miki wanted the Rose Bride so she could play piano forever. He was wound up in love and madness. While Miki fought hard, Utena defeated him. She had little choice.

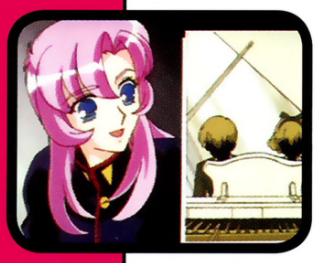
End of the World watches the battles with interest. He comments on the Student Council: "Though we may lead them to believe it, they won't ever really be granted the power to bring revolution to the world, because they have all had hope taken away from them."

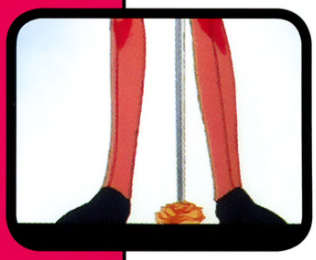
The next battle is *amour* — Love. Utena fights Jury, who is a far better swordswoman Although Jury is outwardly in control, inside Jury is ruled by the power of Love. Jury once loved and was betrayed, and now wants the power of eternity to wipe all miracles from the world. All of Jury's poise fails her in the duelling arena. Utena finds Jury's weakness and wins.

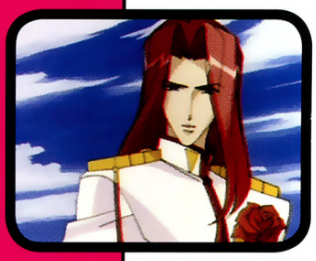
After that came *adoration*. Touga gives Nanami her Rose Seal, and Nanami stares up at her big brother with adoring eyes. Nanami fought for her overwhelming jealousy of anyone who approached her brother, not for herself, and thus fell quickly to Utena's flashing blade.

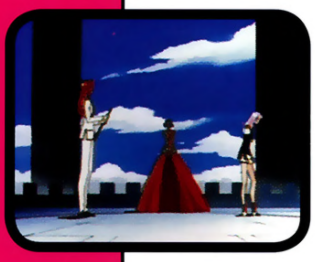


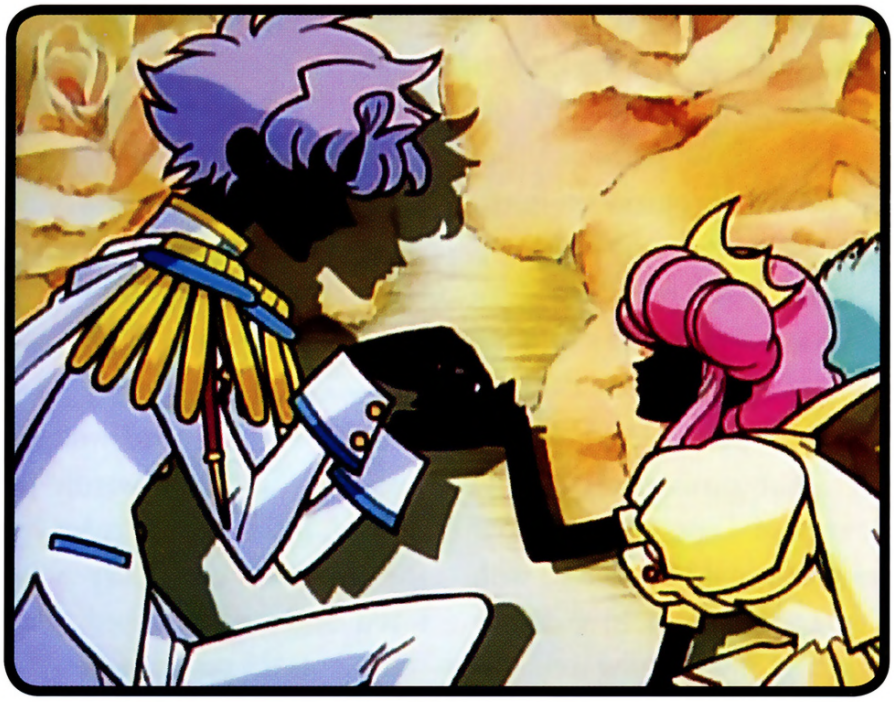












"The young always aim for the end of the world," End of the World says.

Next, *conviction* Touga decides the time is right to strike and take the Rose Bride from Utena. Emotionally weakened by Touga's plots, Utena faces Touga for the first time in the duelling arena. The fight is hard, but Touga has the conviction to win. Touga walks off with the Rose Bride, leaving a broken and crushed Utena behind.

Finally, *self*. Utena had to ask herself why she was duelling. Was she like everyone else? Utena was forced to find herself and take back who she really is. She faces Touga across the duelling arena and, although nearly beaten again, finds the inner strength to win. Utena stands champion of the duels.

These duels are not about skill with a blade. They are about winning the duel of the soul. Though Utena has cleared seven duels, however, she is still merely a Duellist. "Could she be the person we've been hoping for?" End of the World asks the sleeping visage of Dios. If Utena keeps going, there is a chance she will reach the duel named "revolution." The day Dios is released may be near. "When we reach the day we have both waited for, we will both profit equally from it. But, a new stage is about to begin...."

End of the World drops a rose to the floor and leaves the castle.

At home, Anthy returns. She looks out the window at the clouds.

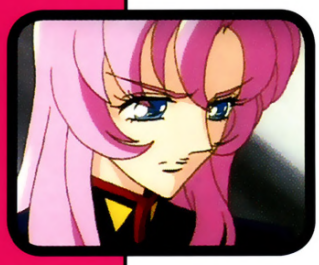
Somewhere, elsewhere, in the halls of the Castle Where Eternity Dwells, a black rose lays on the floor, waiting.

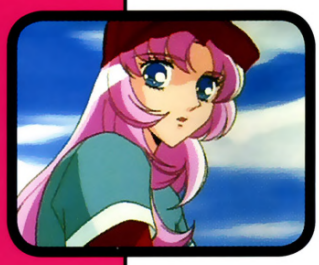
Revolutionary Girl Utena Opening Theme: "Revolution"

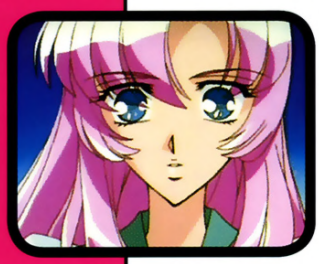
Let's live our lives heroically, let's live them with style.
Even if the two of us are ever torn apart...
Take my revolution.
In the sunlit garden, we both joined our hands.
Drawing close for comfort, we both swore:
Never again would we ever fall in love.
I see the photo of us smiling, standing cheek to cheek.
I look at it and a bit of loneliness starts to fill me.
Even if I dream, even if I cry, even if I get hurt...
... reality keeps on coming recklessly.
I wanna find out where I am, the value of being me.
Gonna take who I've been up till now...
... and find the strength to throw it all away.
Strip down to nothing at all.
Become like a rose petal blowing free!
Even if the two of us are ever torn apart...
... I swear that I will change the world.

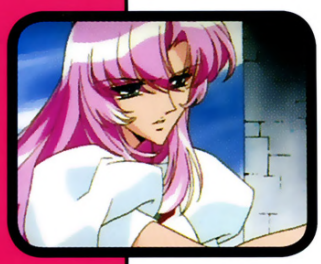
Revolutionary Girl Utena Closing Theme: "Truth"

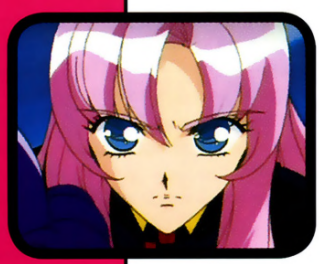
Missing truth and forever,
Kissing love and true your heart.
Hold me tight with your arms so true.
The key to unlock tomorrow is reality.
I want to keep on smashing lies apart.
No matter how much the two of us may talk...
... you still just can't see anything.
Excuses are fitting for adults who just cling to old stories.
The angels who were passed over don't need wings to fly!
Missing truth and forever, kissing love and true your heart.
I like who I'll be tomorrow and...
... I'll believe in myself because I want to believe.
I want to keep on hating lies.

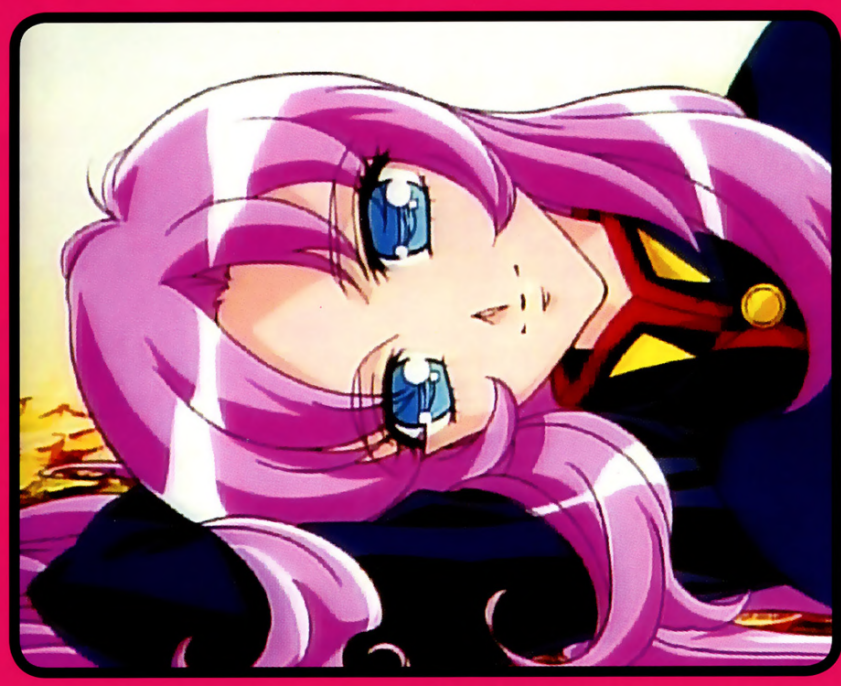












Utena Tenjou

When Utena was small, her parents died suddenly in an accident. During the funeral, she ran and hid in a coffin in the church. She refused to come out until someone showed her something "eternal." A Prince came to her then, rescued the Princess Utena, and gave her the Rose Seal, a small white ring emblazoned with his Rose sigil. He promised they would meet again someday, and told Utena to never lose her nobility. Utena was so impressed with the Prince, she decided to become a Prince herself.

14 year-old Utena is unmistakable, with her bubblegum pink hair and boy's uniform resplendent with red spandex running shorts. Although the Ohtori Academy staff members vehemently objects to her choice of dress, Utena finds no regulation against it in the school rules. Nowhere does it state in unequivocal terms that a female student must wear a girl's standard uniform. Why would she not wear the boy's uniform? A Prince must dress the part!

Utena exudes a confident and cool attitude. Her classmates envy her and dream of being her. Girls sigh and swoon — she's so cool.

For Utena, being abnormal is normal, and her abnormality grounds her in who she is. It is the foundation of the self. She is confident and comfortable in her skin. She is not like the other girls. Utena is not beholden to popularity contests or team pressures or fashion. For Utena, being Utena is normal. Being Utena is enough. She stands alone and lives her life as she wants to live it.

From the outside, Utena seems like the normal, teenage tomboy. She enjoys sports, and has only passing interest in schoolwork. She prefers long walks and spending time with friends. Inside, Utena is a romanticised character. She is as a paragon of strength and nobility. She has a heart of gold and a fierce, unbending loyalty to her friends.

Sometimes, though, Utena is naïve and gullible. She believes Touga when he tells her she is weak and allowing him to beat her. She trusts those around her — often too much. Her strong sense of justice and nobility, however, pull her through the duels.

Utena is quick to fight to defend her loves as well. When Kyoichi Saionji insults "Princess" Wakaba, Utena rushes to rescue her from his cruel predilections. Saionji posts Wakaba's love letter to the school announcement board for fun; offended, Utena challenges him to a duel. She does not understand the rules of the duelling arena nor the competition for the Rose Bride, but the rules do not matter. She knows her friend was humiliated and Saionji needs to learn a lesson. No one insults her dear friends — and certainly not the Vice President of the Student Council and Head of the Kendo Team.

Once engaged to the Rose Bride, Utena fights off the Student Council's desires in quick succession: Saionji's obsessive love, Miki's music, Jury's dead miracles, Nanami's driving jealousy, and Touga's dire manipulations. They keep coming, one after another. Friendships and alliances are built and destroyed on the Student Council's dreams. Utena beats them all.

Utena's relationship with Anthy Himemiya, the Rose Bride, is a precarious situation. She is reluctant to take on the responsibility of being the "Engaged," but once she meets Anthy, she feels driven to free her. To Utena, Anthy is not a prize to be won. She is a normal girl, who needs normal friends and a normal life. Utena does not want to take advantage of Anthy like everyone else, but she does not want to be in the position where she forces Anthy to become something Anthy is not. It is a thin line to walk between commanding Anthy the Rose Bride to be free and encouraging Anthy the teenage girl to find freedom herself. Utena fights for time for Anthy to understand the difference.

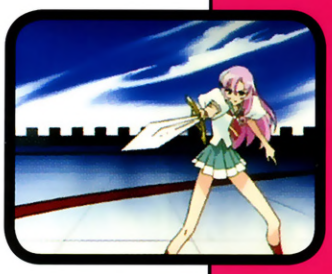
Like a normal girl, Utena is weak as she is strong. Utena's great weakness is her eternal quest for her Prince. She wants to find him so badly that she sees him where he is not. Touga takes merciless advantage of Utena's need. He presents himself as Utena's dream man. He found her when her parents died. He coaxed her out of the coffin. He is the most popular boy on campus. He is wealthy, handsome, and powerful. How could he not be a Prince?

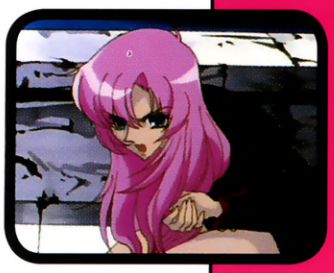
Sensing Utena's trepidation, Touga drops little hints, all which build up to one crushing doubt. When they first duel, Utena is paralysed. While the power of Dios descends from the Castle Where Eternity Sleeps and lends her the strength to fight Touga, she lacks the will to duel. She cannot lift a blade against her Prince. What if he is her dream man? What if he is the one she has waited for? He defeats her easily.

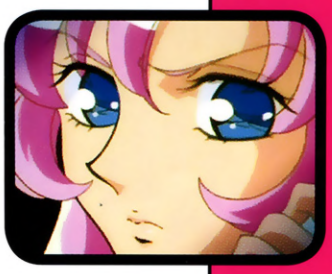
Only when Utena doubts does she lose a duel. Only when she lets Touga get under her skin does she falter. Those niggling thoughts creep into her mind and chew away at her confidence. Doubts eat at her soul. Could it be? Could HE be?

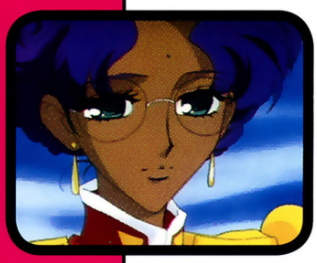
When Utena fights for her own ideals, when she frees herself from doubt, the soul of Dios possesses her and she wins over even Touga with ease. It is not until Utena realises she is the Prince that she can defeat Touga. Her sense of self is her bedrock, her strength. With that, she can fend off all comers and stand tall

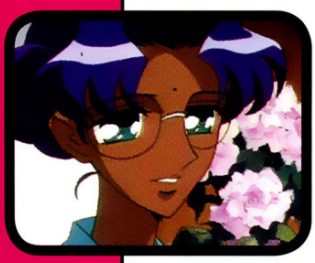
Utena is caring, noble and loyal. She has a strong sense of justice and wants to see all people equally treated, including the Rose Bride. She sacrifices herself and throws herself into battle for the cause of other's happiness. She enjoys cooking and basketball. Utena is not, however, an overwhelming fan of Anthy's exploding curry.

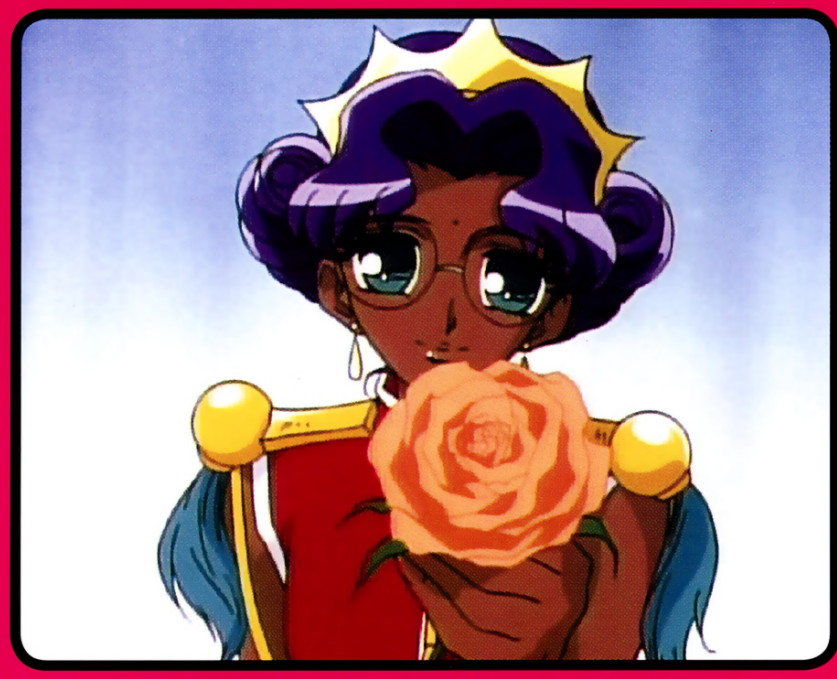












Anthy Himemiya

Everyone desires the Rose Bride. They have their reasons. Saionji believes the Rose Bride is the key to eternal love, bliss, and friendship. Miki does not want to possess the Rose Bride — he wants to set her free so she can play his music forever. Touga needs the Rose Bride for his own plots and plans. Jury wants the Rose Bride so she can disprove the power of miracles. Nanami only wants to rid herself of the Rose Bride, whom she sees as a competitor for her Big Brother. They will fight each other until the end of time to have her. On top of all these reasons, however, is the most important: somewhere, embedded in Anthy's soul, is the power to revolutionise the world and bring about miracles.

Anthy Himemiya is the Rose Bride. She is the prize, mediator, and source of the Duelling Game. For every duel, the current "Engaged" takes her to the duelling platform. In her bright red dress festooned with spangles and roses, she oversees the duel and enforces the rules of the bout. She sheathes the mystical Sword of Dios in her soul — a sword with great power for those who know its secrets. She gives up this weapon to her engaged and to no others. According to Touga, the Rose Bride hides many secrets — and what they are, she is not telling.

The winner of the duel is "engaged" to the Rose Bride. He becomes the Prince and Anthy, the Princess. He or she can use the Rose Bride however they want — for emotional satisfaction, for sexual pleasure, or for simple control. Anthy can become the ultimate friend or lover, the perfect companion, and the balm for the most raggedly damaged soul. If the Engaged loses the duel, he or she loses the Rose Bride and any privileges of being "engaged," including whatever services Anthy the Rose Bride provides. Losing the Rose Bride can drive some to acts of madness.

Anthy's ultimate connection to the duels and the Castle Where Eternity Dwells is unclear, except that there is much more than drawing an elaborate sword and going home with the Duellist Champion. Touga has learned more about the power of the Rose Bride than anyone else, and he's not revealing any secrets. He summons the power with a command and displays only the smallest taste of the power of the Rose Bride.

Anthy the adolescent is a sweet, quiet, shy girl whose main interest is tending the roses in the Rose Garden. She keeps to herself, has interest in few friends outside of Chu-Chu, and rarely mixes in social situations. Large groups of people frighten her. She cannot remember names and too many eyes make her nervous. She enjoys playing piano and shows compassion toward small animals. Anthy is tormented by Nanami and her friends, and lives a quiet, lonely, life. Most of the girls at school do not like her much; they find Anthy "creepy" and complain that she once did something "bad" to a popular boy. Her timid and subservient nature can pull the worst out of the people around her, from Nanami's fierce jealousy to Saionji's obsessive and often cruel behaviour.

The line between Anthy the Rose Bride and Anthy Himemiya Middle School Student is a chasm a million miles wide. Anthy the Rose Bride is integral to the duelling game, while Anthy the student is just an unremarkable and somewhat dull girl with very few friends.

Anthy the Rose Bride lacks a soul. In the haze of yesterday, it was replaced by the Sword of Dios. Her demeanour is unreadable, and she shows few emotions. She seems completely disinterested in the duels as they rage around her.

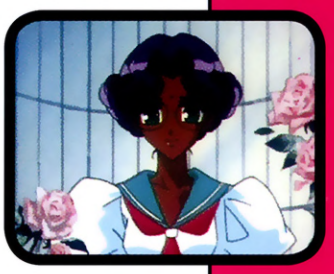
The Rose Bride's being is filled by whomever she is engaged. With Saionji, she becomes the lover who writes about passionate love in his exchange diary. With Touga, she becomes a soulless automaton with no will of her own and no interest in doing anything other than following his orders. With Utena, she feels the first taste of freedom, but even then, she is compelled to fulfil Utena's ideal of a normal girl by obeying Utena's unintentional demands.

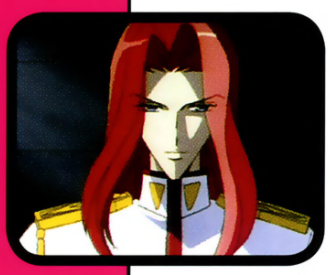
Anthy the Rose Bride is whoever her owner wants her to be. She is a vessel for emotions and reflects them back on the Engaged. Her mirror-like emptiness makes Anthy powerfully desirable by all who fight for the Rose Bride. Saionji wants love, Touga power, Mickey music, and Jury the power to disprove all powers and miracles. She is a key to the power of eternity, and she fulfils some core need in a Duellist's soul. Utena needs and wants nothing from Anthy; therefore with Utena, Anthy is most closely herself. She earnestly wants to be something other than the Rose Bride, but the game and the duels keep her a vessel instead of a normal girl.

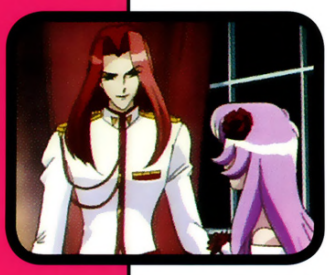
Still, Anthy the Rose Bride is not as passive as she likes people to believe. Anthy plays the duelling game with the rest, but she plays from a point of being the most desirable object in the universe. Miki would not duel if he did not feel compelled to protect Anthy's piano playing. Utena would never take away Anthy's talent, but Anthy leaves the seed that maybe she would. Anthy pushes Saionji to continue his obsessive love long after he knows the love is hollow and dead. She offers Jury a flower to remind Jury of her role in the game, even as Jury protests the power of miracles. Nanami is merely a game. Anthy is nothing to Touga, though, except a hollow vessel to absorb his ambitions and plans.

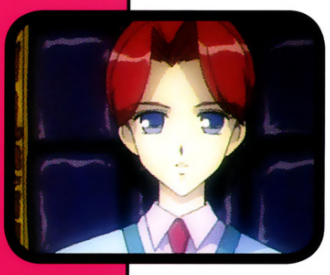
Anthy's relationship with Utena is different than with the other Duellists. Utena wants Anthy to be who she truly is, without any assumptions about whom she should be. Through Utena, Anthy begins to unravel and express her personality for the first time, as if she's tuning into a radio station from very far away. Utena does not want to lose this part of Anthy, but she must be careful not to squelch it by wanting too much from Anthy.

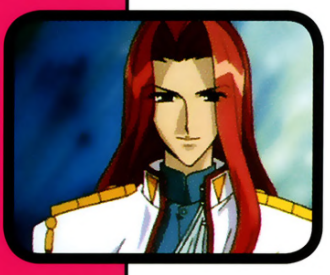
Anthy plays marvellous classical piano, fails at math, and cooks curry so terrible it explodes. She enjoys quiet conversation, and cleans fastidiously. Her nature is non-confrontational. She does not fight when accosted or opposed.

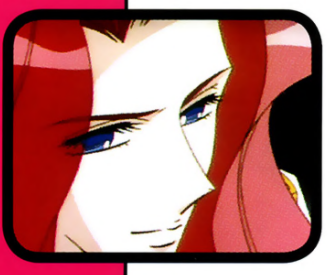


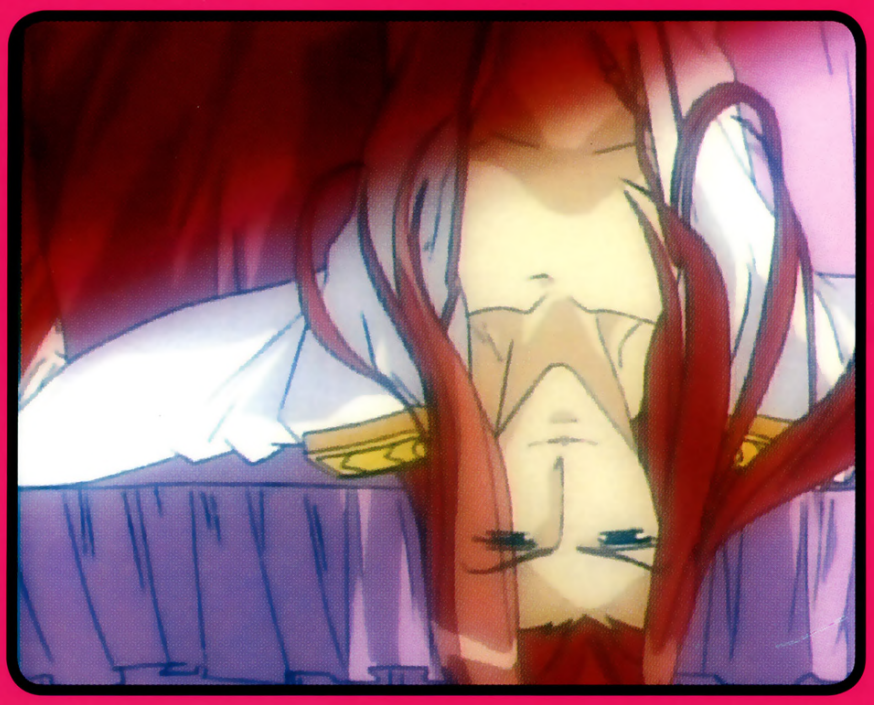












Touga Kiryuu

Sweetest of the bastards, cruel and unyielding, Touga's outside face is the handsome, cosmopolitan, wealthy campus playboy and President of the Student Council. He melts hearts with his good looks and suave ways. He surrounds himself with admirers. His sister lives and dies for his attentions.

Touga is treacherous. He sacrifices his sister and his friends for power. He lays elaborate psychological traps for his foes. He collects information, analyses weaknesses, and plots the best possible angle. When all is set, he attacks. Touga is an excellent swordsman and an expert in kendo. He is better than his ex-best friend Kyoichi Saionji. He does not belong to any of the formal fencing teams at school, however, preferring to keep his fencing skills a secret from all but his fellow Student Council members.

Touga practices on his so-called best friend, Kyoichi Saionji. Once they were best friends, at least in Saionji's mind. They grew up together. They learned to fight together. Touga now finds Saionji weak, a slave to his obsessions and desires. He is no longer a best friend. Now, Saionji is a tool to manipulate at whim and position as need be.

Touga is as bad with Miki, whom he ignores until he has a use for the boy. When Miki refused to duel Utena and moved for dissolution of the Student Council, Touga struck Miki's one obvious weak point. Touga cornered Miki's twin sister, Kozue, in the music room at the school and fondled her on top of Miki's beautifully tuned piano. He took Miki's rage at the obvious dishonouring of his twin sister and redirected it toward Utena, goading the younger boy into a duel on the duelling platform.

Touga gets to Jury, too, but she is more difficult. Jury's only weakness is her icy disdain for magic and miracles. Touga pokes and pries, reminding Jury of her locket and her love, but Jury takes herself to the duelling platform, not Touga.

When idle or bored, Touga plays with his sister, Nanami. Nanami's love for him is helpless and, to his mind, stupid and childish — but useful. He tolerates Nanami's boorish bullying and slavish devotion. When he needs to

use her as a tool for his own plots, he does. He slides a Rose Seal on her finger, at End of the World's behest, and allows Nanami to work out her aggressions and jealousy in the duelling arena. All these games eventually bore Touga, though. They are fun for a while, but the real challenge is Utena Tenjou.

Utena fascinates Touga Kiryuu. She holds his attention like no other girl on the Ohtori Academy. Although girls swarm over him like a hive of ants, he is only interested in the girl who can challenge him, and win.

At first, Utena is merely a curiosity. Initially Touga wants nothing from Utena save momentary entertainment; he sees her as a way to alleviate his eternal boredom. He sends Utena a pink gown bedecked with roses for the ball in his own home to curry her favour, hoping she will come to him and give in to his attentions.

With each obstacle, Touga's interest in Utena is only increased; he returns her rebuffs with even more determined attention. He is a convincing Prince, at least at first: he is handsome, intelligent, and powerful; he lives in a large palace and holds court; he sits upon a large throne-like chair to receive visitors at his birthday parties. His Student Council uniform even dresses him for the part. It is easy to allow oneself to be swayed by all this finery — even Utena.

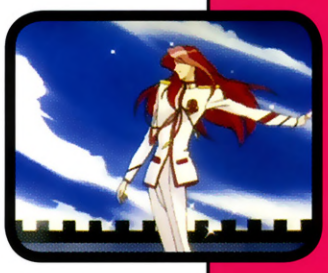
When Touga fails to convince Utena he is a Prince through circumstantial evidence, he sets up his so-called best friend Saionji and "rescues" Utena at the last minute by taking a well-placed blow in the back. Doubt gone, rescue complete, Touga transforms himself into Utena's "Prince." The entire ruse, of course, was not to gain Utena's affections, but to defeat her on the duelling platform.

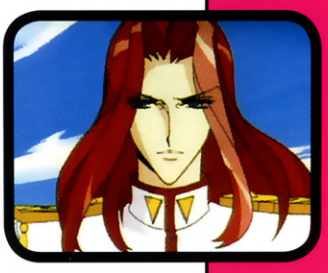
Touga defeats Utena not through skill, but through psychological advantage. Even after Touga beats Utena, he vies for her attention. Nothing deters him, not even victory. Egged on by her best friend Wakaba, Utena meets Touga in a rematch on the duelling arena. She fascinates him even as she leaves him defeated and finished.

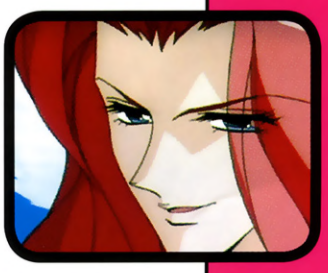
Touga is not entirely heartless. Once, a long time ago, he tried to rescue a small girl with bubblegum pink hair from her rose coffin. Unfortunately, he had nothing eternal to show the girl, and had no choice but to leave her behind. He still cares for her, and perhaps this is the root of his dalliance and fascination with Utena. On some distant level, he is a shadow of her Prince, an echoed memory of someone else.

Though he plays the duels for personal gain, Touga Kiryuu understands the intellectual and spiritual nature of the game. He's watched every duel, calculated every duellist's strength and weakness. He uses his position as the rich, popular playboy president of the Student Council to access secrets and manipulate the emotions of his opposition. He preys on his fellow duellists to make them weak so he is the strongest. Jury and even Saionji might defeat him in the conventional practice rooms, but on the platform, if all goes according to plan, he is master. He wins his fight with Utena not by beating her in combat, but by skewering her soul.

Touga manipulates hope. He uses people to win. When Utena faces him the first time, Touga has her so wound up about what she wants to do to or with Anthy and about Anthy's freedom that she forgets her nobility. It becomes a game of lost confidence. Not until Utena truly loses and realises what the game is about does she become an unbeatable duellist In the end, Touga is the one who gives Utena the keys to victory, whether he meant to or not.







Kyoichi Saionji

Saionji believes he understands love.

When Saionji first arrives on the scene, he slaps Anthy across the face for some breach in her "duties," and demands she love him forever. As his one truly prized possession, he keeps her in the Rose Garden where she is accessible and easy to find. Outwardly, the Rose Bride is another possession, another conquest, a thing Saionji owns. He's a collection of haughty, powerful things. He refuses to admit any kind of genuine love or feeling for Anthy or anyone else. Inwardly, however, that cool, remote outlook is replaced by a jumble of contradictions and hot-headed jealousies.

Saionji revels in his position as the vice president of the Student Council, captain of the Kendo Team and Champion of the Duels. It is his whole existence. He is so confident that he torments Wakaba and puts Utena on the path of the Duellist without realising it. After all, who would want to get in the path of the great Kyoichi Saionji? Once defeated, he is consumed with rage and grief, unable to cope with his change in status. He re-challenges Utena, but fails to regain the Rose Bride, weakened and humbled despite his pride.

Saionji is a tool of the game, a victim of his passions and self-doubt. He allows himself to be dragged back to the duelling platform by his obsession, without any understanding of why he lost to begin with. He puts up quite a fight once there, but he will always lose he does not have the strength of spirit to do anything else.

Saionji is all obsessions and no purpose. He desires eternity, he desperately dreams of entering the Castle Where Eternity Dwells, but he has no way of getting there. He can see the end game clearly and knows the prize he wants to win, but he cannot overcome the obstacles in his way.

Even Saionji could get past his own internal doubts, he would always end up facing his ex-best friend Touga. The two of them have known each other since childhood. Touga always bested him in everything: fighting, girls, school, power — he was everything Saionji wanted to be, and was not Over the years,

Saionji built his simmering jealousy of Touga into a passionate hatred. Because of this, because Touga inflames his passion and enrages his soul, he could never get past Touga to get into the Castle. Too much hangs between them.

The rage between Touga and Saionji comes to a head when Saionji tries one last time to regain the Rose Bride. Believing he has tacit permission from End of the World, he kidnaps Anthy and drags her to the duelling arena over her protests. Something eternal draws Saionji — an eternal love he cannot feel without the power of miracles. His insecurity robs him of it anywhere else, but to be without it is more than he can bear. While Utena rescues Anthy, Saionji hallucinates that the Castle Where Eternity Dwells falls upon him, killing him. Recognising the hallucination and driven by blinding anger, he raises his sword to deal a killing blow to Utena, only to strike "chivalrous" Touga between the shoulder blades.

Because of that blow, Ohtori Academy expels Saionji. No more duels, no more Rose Bride, and no more eternity. No one survives breaking the rules of the duels. End of the World's orders are clear and immovable. Saionji accepted the Rose Seal, he plays by the rules, and he wins or loses by the rules. Saionji leaves in disgrace. He leaves his precious exchange diary with Touga, who promptly dumps it into the furnace.

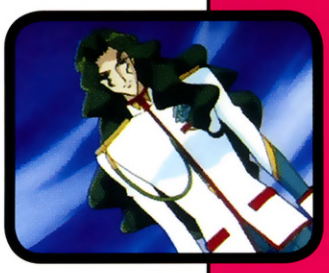
Saionji desires two things out of the power to bring world revolution. The first thing he wants is Anthy Himemiya as a perfect, unchanging lover. As the Rose Bride, who must do whatever Saionji commands, he will get her undying love without having to earn it, find it, or live it. For Saionji, this love is the power of eternity, and he believes Anthy desires it as well. "She also desires something eternal," he tells Utena.

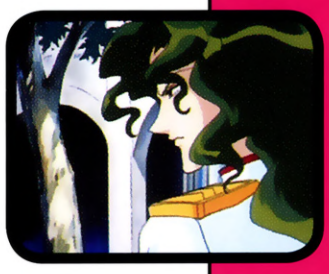
His love for Anthy is true in its own fashion, if horribly misplaced. He obsesses about her. He thinks about her without end, and cannot bear to be without her. He writes about it at length in his exchange diary, and forces Anthy to answer him back in the same. He meets Anthy secretly to exchange his "true feelings" with her. Utena finds this childish, but that is because she does not understand that in many ways, Saionji is still a child. He does not have Utena's inner confidence, her belief in her self-worth. He instead must hear these things from another in order to believe them, one whom he knows will never turn away from him or find him wanting. This is the truth behind his obsession with Anthy: he needs her to give him the praise and love that he cannot give himself.

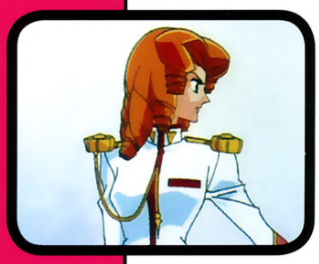
Saionji hints darkly that previously, before Utena's arrival, Saionji earnestly tried to change Anthy and breathe life into her. He loved her, and wanted more than a living doll who merely responded to his every command He became frustrated and angry, and eventually gave up trying to change Anthy from her Rose Bride status. His frustration manifests in violence, and he hits her when he is unhappy.

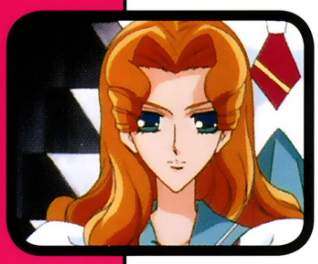
The second thing Saionji desires is to be master of the Duels, defeating his on-again, off-again friend Touga Kiryuu. The pair of them both love and hate the other. There is no middle ground in their relationship. Saionji wants to be the best, and the only way to be the best is to defeat Touga. At times, he no longer wants to be friends with Touga, he just wants to beat him. Then again, sometimes he seems to wish to recapture their relationship as it was before his jealousy and anger tainted it all. With Saionji, it is difficult to tell.

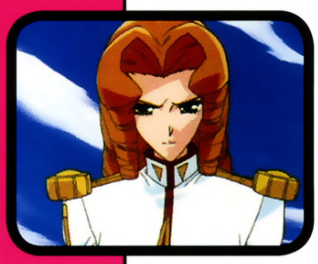
Saionji is the only character to go by his surname rather than his first name in the series. It is traditional among kendoists to go by their surname. As a Kendo Champion, he follows the ancient conventions.

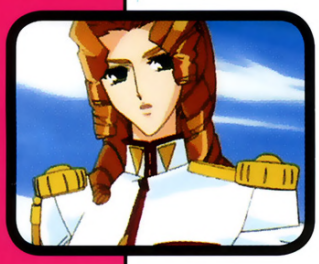


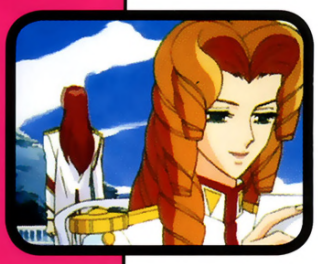


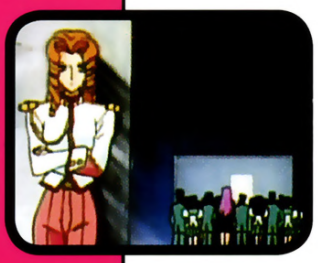












Jury Arisugawa

Jury Arisugawa may not be the most sympathetic character in *Revolutionary Girl Utena*, but she is the most human. Jury can don a military-style fencing uniform, walk into a room, and command it with her very presence. She can wear a gown with ruffles and frills and stun a room with her femininity. She radiates strength and power, an implacable presence with total control. She is the Fencing Team captain, with the teachers in the palm of her hand. She is the voice of the Student Council, the upright, shining symbol of leadership for Ohtori Academy. Most admire her and many fear her. Even the teachers stay away. Utena thinks Jury is so beautiful, she could be a supermodel. They only see what Jury wants them to see, though: a beautiful facade built to hide a broken spirit.

When we first see Jury, she's the silent member of the Student Council. She is quiet and controlled; a complete counterpoint to Saionji's loud brooding and fretting. She never lets anyone past her guard. She listens politely and watches Touga spin his spider webs of plots, without involving herself emotionally or physically Jury sits above the fray, quiet and composed. No one knows her true emotional state.

Jury Arisugawa is a pragmatist. She does not believe in magic or miracles. She only believes in what she sees with her eyes and what she can take with her own hands. There is no magic in this life for her. Such desires are childish and pointless.

Jury desires the Rose Bride in order to disprove the power of miracles, once and for all. With the Rose Bride in her grasp, she will prove that Anthy Himemiya is nothing more than an adolescent girl who shamelessly manipulates the others on the Student Council for her own pleasure and amusement. Whether this is true or not, with Anthy under her control, it will become so. Jury has no place in her life for fantasies, except to disprove them once and for all.

Jury was not always so cold and hard-hearted. Several years ago, Jury trained with a boy while Shiori, her best friend since childhood, watched. The

two girls were more than friends, they were like sisters. Shiori desired the boy, however, and chose her desires over Jury's happiness. Shiori betrayed that sense of family to take the boy all for herself.

Shiori believed Jury was jealous because she took the boy away, but Shiori was wrong. Jury loved Shiori, not the boy. The boy was just a boy, but Shiori was a soul-mated twin. "You know," Jury says to Utena, "I don't even remember the boy's name…" It was never about him, but about Jury's pain at Shiori's willingness to betray her. Jury's heart broke when Shiori betrayed her trust, shattering her ability to trust in anyone or anything. She sealed her pain up where no one could see it, wearing a symbol of it at all times in an oval locket around her neck, so that she alone will know and never forget.

Jury nurses her hurt like a treasured keepsake. She cannot share her hurt, or show it to others. She will not allow it to outwardly rule her, yet she keeps it with her always, wearing it around her neck with pride. In private, she gazes at the old, black and white image of Shiori for hours, working the events of those days in her mind over and over again. Shiori is a bleeding, dripping hole in Jury's soul that seeps behind her icy veneer. Jury spends so much time nursing the hole in her soul that she never allows it to mend. Years have passed, and still that hole remains.

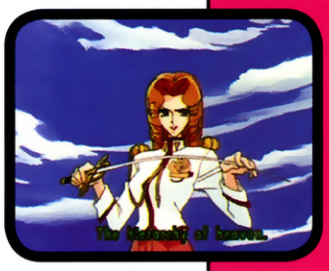
Although the best swordfighter of the Student Council, her memories of betrayal keep her from advancing on the duelling platform. Jury has no hope, nor belief in the power to bring the world revolution. She calls Utena to the duelling platform because Utena's attitude toward the Rose Bride and the Prince disgusts and sickens her. How anyone can hold onto the illusions of a Prince to this stage of the game is beyond her understanding. If Utena is still so foolish as to believe in fairy tales, then Jury will do her a favour and shatter those pitiful illusions forever, before they can harm anyone else.

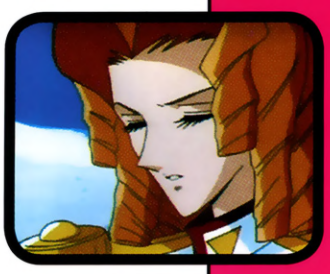
During her duel with Utena, Jury demands Utena show her this miracle — and the miracle comes to pass. The Sword of Dios leaves Utena's hand, and falls from the sky, splitting Jury's rose in twain. Jury is defeated by her own lack of faith. She has the technique to be a masterful duellist, but she lacks the strength of soul. She has no conviction, no belief. Hurt, pain, and suffering are not enough to make it into the Castle Where Eternity Dwells. Whatever Jury needs to bring about world revolution, the road does not lead through the duelling platform in the forest.

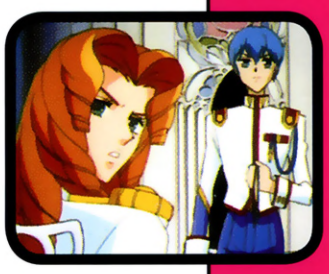
One of Jury's great strengths is her position at the top of the rumour mill of Ohtori Academy. If something happens, Jury knows about it. Few things escape her notice — least of all Utena's rise through the ranks of the Duellists. She is very well informed, if only to keep her a step ahead of Touga and out of his traps Jury would rather be a fallen warrior than another of Touga's many pawns.

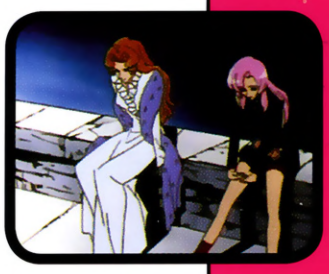
Jury is not all ice. A few get by her barriers and closer to her heart. She shows tenderness toward Miki. She gives him a certain sibling affection, where she can tease him and he teases her back. Jury has not missed Miki's budding love of Anthy Himemiya, either, and tries to remind him that Anthy is less than she seems.

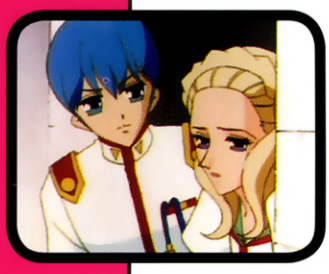
Jury is also not all conquest. Unlike Saionji, she is a gracious loser, and knows when to bow out of the game without losing her temper. In the end, before Utena goes to fight Touga, Jury hands her a sword. "You need this to set the final scene," she says.

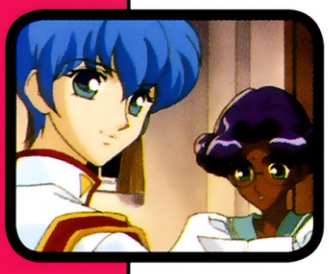












Miki "Mickey" Kaoru

Musically gifted and popular, Miki Kaoru is the youngest member of the Student Council. He is an extremely talented fencer, even being able to hold Jury off while the other members of the fencing team fall before her blade. Mickey is also a genius. Although only in middle school, he already takes college classes. Since he has quite the crush on Anthy, he goes out of his way to help her with her homework. Miki is sweet and kind, yet he is ruled by his neurosis. It haunts his music. It dogs his life.

The neurosis manifests as perfection. The first time he ever defeats Jury in combat, Mickey complains about his lack of perfection. Perfection is his life's goal — his entire purpose for existing. Of course, he is doomed to fail, for no one is perfect. Jury chides Miki for his obsession with the fantasy of perfection. His lack of perfection, she says — his spontaneity — is his true strength.

Miki's obsession with perfection begins in childhood. When Miki and his twin sister, Kozue, were children, they sat in the sunlit garden behind their house and played the piano with genius and unbearable beauty. There they sat, day after day — a matched pair of perfect musical children, playing a piece also called "the Sunlit Garden" The neighbours came to listen to the children play.

So impressive were the children, their parents arranged for them to perform before a large audience. Kozue was scared and cried. She clung to her twin brother. She could not go on. Miki assured her that he would also be on stage, sitting on the stool at the piano right next to her. Nothing to fear! Miki would be right there!

Yet, when the day of the concert came, Miki fell ill with the measles. He lay in bed, prone, too sick to play and much too ill to get on stage. Sadly, the show must go on. Their parents took the little girl by the hand and led her up to the stage, where she cried, ran away and hid. It turned out that Kozue had no genius at the piano. At the very best, Kozue is a mediocre player. She hid behind her brother's genius and pretended to be a brilliant player. They did not find her until the next morning. Unbearably betrayed, Miki's sister

never played the piano again, with Miki or anyone else. Kozue blamed Miki for her misfortune, and a rift grew between them.

After that day, Miki searched endlessly for his "shining thing" — the feeling he had when he played in the sunlit garden with his sister, Kozue. He never recovered that piece of his soul, however, until he heard Anthy play the piano. Anthy reminds him, painfully, of his twin sister before the concert tore them apart. She is a graceful, lovely echo of Miki's childhood dreams. Anthy plays beautifully. She played "The Sunlit Garden" for Miki with flawless perfection — like Miki remembered Kozue playing so many years ago. At that moment, Miki's artistic soul was touched, and Miki fell in love.

Miki's love is complicated. Anthy belongs to Utena as the Rose Bride. When Anthy tells Miki that Utena could forbid her from playing piano — and she would happily comply — Miki flies into a rage, determined that he will not lose his sister (or her surrogate) twice.

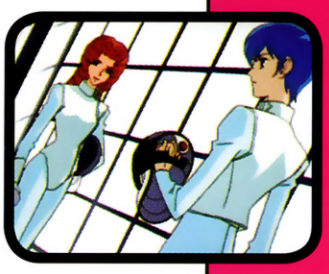
First, he convenes a meeting of the Student Council without a letter from End of the World and demands the Council be disbanded. Touga smoothly talks him out of that madness. Seeing an opening, Touga convinces Miki to challenge Utena for the Rose Bride. With the Rose Bride in his possession, Miki could ensure the music's freedom forever — at least, until Touga fights him, for Miki is still no match for the Student Council president.

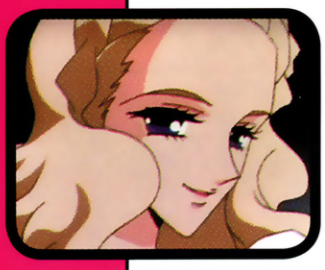
The duel ends predictably, with Utena keeping Anthy at her side. Miki swears to re-challenge Utena to a duel, but nothing comes of it — his fury is not passion, but empty fear. Over time, his magnified fears fade to a warm friendship with Utena and Anthy, which benefits them all. He loses his temporary insanity — or his misjudgement. Miki was used and manipulated into fighting the duels; once completed, he has no interest in pressing the matter. It is clear that Utena will not force Anthy to quit the piano on a whim.

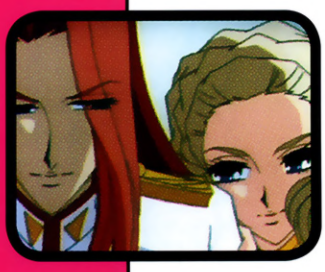
Miki's relationship with his sister remains contentious. He loves his sister Kozue deeply, but Kozue does everything in her power to make Miki's life miserable. He wants to see Kozue do well, but she has a dark and jealous nature, more content to see Miki suffer over her than see him be happy himself. Kozue plays around with Touga in the music room because Kozue wants to get in a stab at her beloved brother. He loves her so much that her dishonouring herself on the Student Council President leaves an open wound in Miki's heart. It is a handle Touga uses to push and pull him when he needs it. Any "shining thing" the two shared is gone now, lost in the haze of childhood and missed chances.

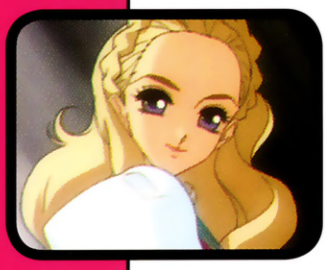
Miki is the only member of the Student Council to form a real friendship with Utena. While Saionji seethes, Touga plots, and Jury blithely ignores Utena, Mickey reaches out and makes friends with her. He does it for more reasons than getting near to Anthy Himemiya; Mickey honestly enjoys spending time with Utena and feels no ill will toward her, despite his defeat at her hands on the duelling platform.

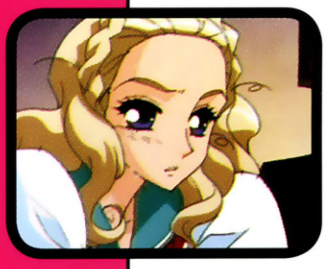
Miki's one completely bizarre hobby is timing the smallest and most obscure things. He carries a stop watch wherever he goes and he times everything. Sometimes, if the thing and the time both please him, he writes the times down. He never explains why he does this. Perhaps he is measuring the tempo of the world and fitting it to the music that plays, without end, in his soul. As he is the Student Council scribe, he takes the meeting minutes by timing each of the minutes it takes to create a minute for him to write.

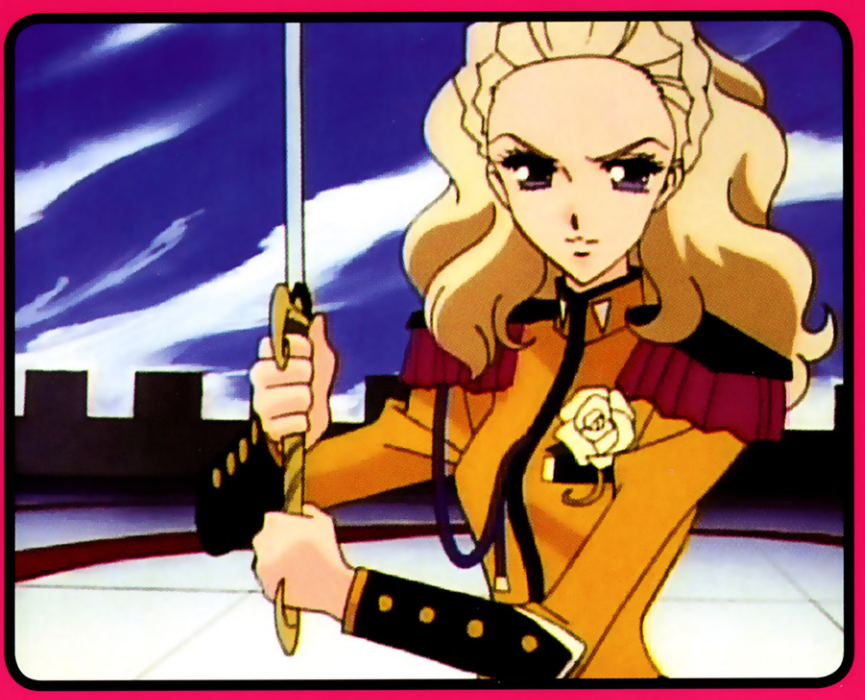












Nanami Kiryuu

Nanami has a Prince: Touga.

The centre of Nanami's eternally enduring kingdom is her handsome playboy brother Touga, the popular, oft-sought-after President of the Student Council. Nanami does not just love Touga. She worships Touga. She depends on him to protect her when things go hideously awry — and they often go hideously awry.

Nanami envisions herself as a grand 13-year-old Machiavellian Queen presiding over a kingdom of vassals that attend to her every need and whim, telling her tales of her enduring beauty, engaging wit, and absolute perfection. Next to her stands her perfect Prince, her brother Touga. He is there until the end of time, strong, proud, and perfect in every conceivable way. She is already pretty, wealthy and commands a small army of nasty lieutenant hatch men who willingly do her bidding. Touga completes her universe

When Nanami gets deeply into hot water, she comes to Touga. When Nanami wants someone to help in her twisted plots, she comes to Touga. When Nanami wants money or a new toy, she comes to Touga. Nanami's relationship with her brother is… complicated. The obsession isn't filial love, but a love of a more intense, possessive, passionate nature. Nanami loves Touga. She even duels at her brother's request. While Touga humours her, Nanami's obsession with her brother deepens unnaturally toward final and unpleasant conclusions. No one gets between Nanami and her brother: not friends, not family, nothing.

One example of the lengths Nanami is willing to take to eliminate rivals is shown by the fate of a treasured pet. Nanami loved the kitten, and loved giving the kitten to her big brother. Touga's eyes lit up at the sight of Nanami's dirt-streaked face and the poor, filthy, bedraggled kitten. He truly liked the kitten and enjoyed playing with it. When he was playing with the kitten, however, he did not pay attention to Nanami. This was something Nanami would not tolerate. One day, Nanami fatally disposed of her rival, killing the kitten and disposing of its body. She was saddened to have to kill

the kitten, but it had to be done; Nanami never spoke to it again. In the end, though, she had her big brother back. His attention was once again focused on the person that mattered: her.

As Nanami grew older, her jealousies grew more complicated. She can not dispose of other girls the same way she did the kitten. She therefore engages in underhanded plotting, assisted by the worshipful admiration of her devoted followers.

The chief victim of Nanami's ire is Anthy Himemiya. Nanami does not understand why the heads of the men in her life turn to Anthy, Anthy, Anthy! If only she could ruin Anthy somehow, if she could show the world what a complete freak Anthy is, the boys would stop talking about that girl and talk about Nanami instead. Nanami is rich! Nanami is beautiful! Nanami has the most popular brother in school! Why are they always talking about Anthy?

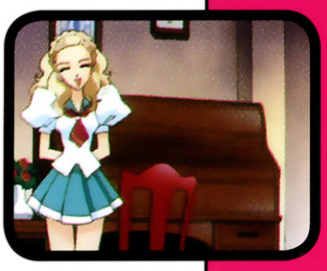
The combination of Machiavellian leanings and a raw hatred for Anthy Himemiya leads Nanami to execute some bizarre and overly complicated plans, most of which sound good in theory but fail in execution. The dissolving dress at the Kiryuu Mansion ball was a good start, but Utena easily swept in and made Anthy the hero of that small tale. Getting in on a study session and proving to Miki that Anthy is not cool should have worked, except that Anthy's weirdness destroyed Nanami's plot and Miki found Anthy's quirks adorable. Then came the body-swapping curry, which should have just blown up the home economics kitchen. Unfortunately, it meant time in India being pursued by curry-protecting elephants.

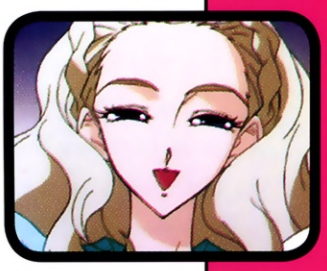
Nanami starts small and thinks big. She weaves a tapestry of utterly implausible and overly complicated plots that have no hope of success, in keeping with her overly-romanticised teenage view of the world. Nanami blithely assumes her plots will magically work due to her natural charm and wit. Unfortunately, not even Touga has enough charm or wit to pull of her grand designs, much less her. It would be, and occasionally is, simpler to order her loyal, adoring followers to hit Anthy repeatedly.

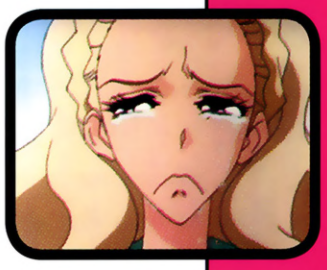
When Utena gets between Nanami and Touga, Nanami has no choice. Big brother is interested in someone non-Nanami. That someone must be destroyed. Touga indulges Nanami and slides a Rose Seal upon Nanami's finger, allowing her to become a Duellist.

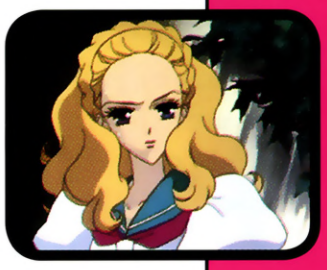
Driven by hatred, fear, and obsession, Nanami takes out her rage on Utena in the duelling arena. She loses swiftly, but that does not stop her. She fights frantically even after the duel has ended. Her target is not the possession of Anthy — it is never the possession of Anthy — but rather the attention of her elder brother. Utena fends her off with some difficulty, and it takes Touga to call off Nanami's attack. The rules of the duel are quite clear: no fighting once the duel has ended and the champion has won.

To others, Nanami is cruel and often abusive. She brings the Mitsuru incident upon herself. If she was not always depending on Touga to rescue her, Mitsuru would not have gotten the bright idea to drop flower pots on her head and unleash crazed horses at her school locker. Although Mitsuru is loyal, the question is: is he loyal to Nanami because he is in love with Nanami, or is he loyal to Nanami so he can be just like Touga, his true hero? Nanami is not the pinnacle of inspiration to young and impressionable children — especially the ones she sends to beat up her stalkers for her. Nanami only gets the followers, friends, and companions she deserves.









Literary and Anime Influences on Utena

"... in panic I read on while cold fear contracted my heart: "The bird fights its way out of the egg. The egg is the world. Who would be born must first destroy a world...."

While *Revolutionary Girl Utena* stands as its own as a work, first as manga and then as anime, it draws from two major sources: the much older anime *The Rose of Versailles* and the novella *Demian* by Herman Hesse.

The core themes of Utena originate with Riyoko Ikeda's *Rose of Versailles*. This older historical drama was released originally as shoujo manga in the mid 1970's and, later, as anime between 1979 and 1980. *Rose of Versailles* tells a tale of the French Revolution, Marie Antoinette, and the fictional cross-dressing swordswoman, Oscar Francois de Jarjeyes.

Oscar, the main character, is a girl raised to be a boy by her father, the historical personification of the real General Jarjeyes. Oscar is admired by the French Court for her nobility, her duty and her sense of purpose. Yet she is torn between her duties to her Queen as the Queen's Bodyguard, her loves and desires, and her sense of right. She cannot reconcile her gifted, privileged life with the world of pain outside the palace walls. Oscar lives among the most opulent of France's noble society, yet she cannot disregard the poverty and suffering of the French people. In the end, Oscar chooses the people.

Revolutionary Girl Utena pulls many of its core themes from *Rose of Versailles*: the girl who dresses up as a boy and defends the honour of the "queen." Nobility, honour, and duels at dawn, backstabbing politics and conspiracies, and flashing blades. Outside the castle's protected walls stirs a Revolution — one that threatens to change the world. With the cruelty of the ruling class and the gap between the rich and the poor, Oscar must make a decision. Does she have the strength to leave her perfumed home of elegance and beauty to face the world revolution, or will she stand by her Queen, for God and Country?

Rose of Versailles features the elegant shoujo manga character designs which later inspired the designs for *Revolutionary Girl Utena*. Utena also heavily borrows from the French style of fencing (especially with Jury), the costumes, and the elegant, opulent architecture. Utena's costume post-transformation on the steps to the duelling platform is reminiscent of Lady Oscar's guard uniform. As a nod to its source, *Revolutionary Girl Utena* is, in the main opening titles, translated to French as *La Fillite Revolutionnaire Utena*.

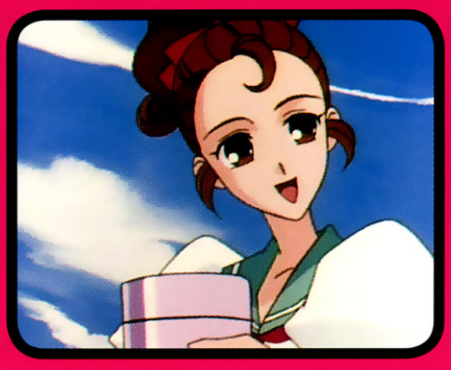
The mysticism, on the other hand, originates not from a French Revolution shoujo manga drama but elsewhere. *Demian*, by Herman Hesse, was released in 1917 in German under a pseudonym to a receptive and confused post-WWI German audience. The main thrust of the novella is the disaffected feelings of a frustrated teenager in a rapidly changing post-Great War world. Emil Sinclair stumbles through an existence where true occult meaning bubbles beneath the surface of reality, and only by "cracking the world's shell" can he learn the truth and bring his own revolution to the world.

The two works share common themes. In *Demian*, a distinguishing "mark of Cain" marks middle and high school students on their forehead, revealing them to be special "souls" who understand the true meaning of the world — not unlike Utena's "Rose Seal" signet rings. After soul searching and living a life lost of hope, Emil returns to his core philosophical roots. He fervently searches to break the world's shell and bring revolution to a nonsensical and repetitive world through trial. He tries to touch the truth that lies just beyond his understanding. He delves into the occult and forbidden literature and strange cabals only to find the revolution within him. He is the source of world revolution.

Revolutionary Girl Utena pulls its core metaphysical themes from *Demian* the way it pulls function, form, and character design from the *Rose of Versailles*. Although many of the bells and whistles — the duelling and the Rose Bride, for example — are native ideas to Utena, the very core concept of "smashing the world's shell" is directly from *Demian*.

The influence on *Demian* on *Utena* is clearer in the movie, *The Adolescence of Utena*, than in the anime series. The movie draws more direct imagery from the book than the series does, especially in the form of paintings, but the anime series instead takes time to evolve the ideas into a more complex narrative.

Wakaba Shinohara



Wakaba Shinohara is Utena Tenjou's best friend. Although completely ignorant of the Duelling game at Ohtori Academy, Wakaba is nonetheless supportive. Her optimistic attitude shows Utena the way through dark times. Bubbly and happy, 14-year-old Wakaba calls Utena her "boyfriend" and declares her love for the pink-haired Prince to the sky and stars. Utena is Wakaba's Prince! Her one true love! There is no one she could love other than Utena!

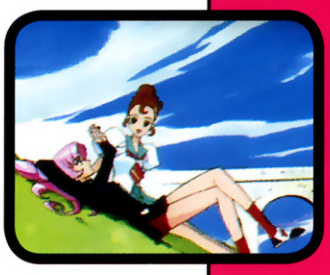
Wakaba has an odd habit of attacking Utena from behind, especially near open windows. Wakaba pounces Utena for both "paying her back" and to show her undying love. Whenever the chance avails itself, Wakaba creeps up behind Utena and pounces, causing them both to collapse to the floor in a heap. Utena also carries Wakaba around on her back from time to time.

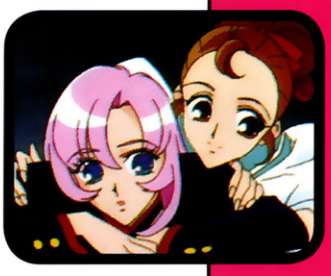
Wakaba is well versed in who's who at Ohtori Academy, giving Utena an outsider's view to the Student Council. She knows all the rumours about Anthy and Saionji. She points out to Utena that Anthy once did something bad to an older boy. What that bad thing was or who the boy was, no one remembers, yet, the stigma of "Anthy the manipulator" hangs in the air, even with good-natured Wakaba.

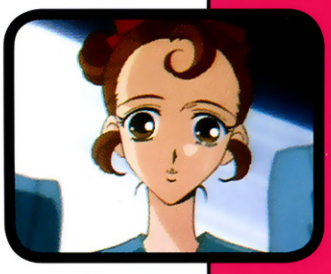
Wakaba and Utena have been friends since early childhood. Nothing separates the pair, be it school, sport, or boys. Wakaba is Utena's rock, and Wakaba is Utena's true love. When Wakaba is insulted by Saionji in a moment of casual cruelty, Utena throws down the gauntlet without hesitation; she duels Saionji for Wakaba's honour. When Utena loses faith and hope after losing to Touga, Wakaba restores it without understanding the duels or the game or the relationship between Utena and Touga. Wakaba asks for nothing other than Utena's love and patience.

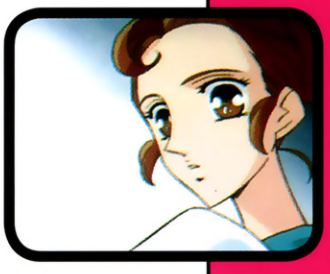
Wakaba is a normal girl with no involvement in the duels or the secret games at Ohtori Academy. She cannot cook, and relies on microwaved food for her boxed lunches. She lacks the slightest clue about the game, and has no inclination of joining She only knows that Utena was suddenly relocated to a strange dorm with an even stranger Anthy Himemiya. Wakaba is not crazy about Anthy and even less so about Utena living with her, but whomever Utena likes, Wakaba likes. When Anthy leaves and Utena sits in her room, despondent, it is Wakaba who comes to cheer Utena up, Wakaba who wants to talk about what happened, and Wakaba who puts up with Utena's moodiness.

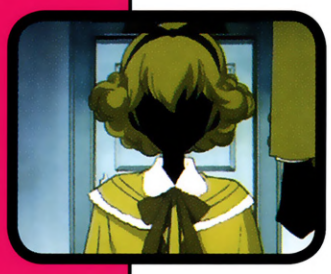
Wakaba tries to be Anthy's friend, even though Wakaba thinks Anthy is weird. Since she is an inclusive girl, Wakaba does not try to freeze Anthy out of any activities she might have with Utena. Anthy, much to Wakaba's relief, is not very interested in hanging out. With Wakaba's boundless enthusiasm, however, even Anthy begins to warm to the girl.

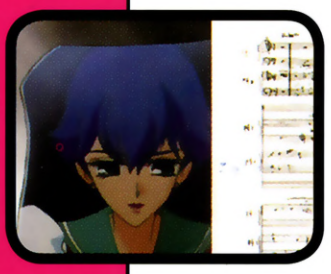




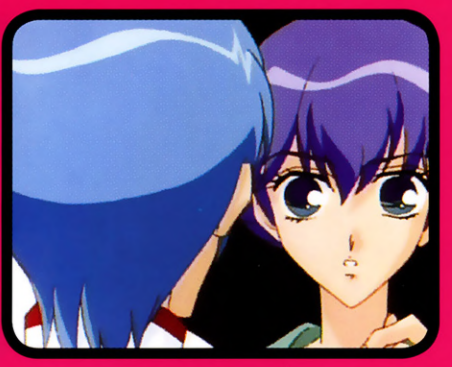








Kozue Kaoru



Kozue is Miki's opposite. Where he is quiet and studious, she is loud and brash. While he is very careful about relationships, Kozue collects boyfriends. The gulf between them is vast and deep. Kozue is a normal high school freshman. She does not take any exceptional classes or participate in exceptional sports. She and her friends do not interact with the Student Council crowd, other than to moon over Touga Kiryuu.

Kozue Kaoru is Miki Kaoru's twin sister. When they were children, they played piano together in the sunlit garden, a warm hazy memory in Miki's mind of the games played in yesteryear. They had such talent, everyone from the neighbourhood came to listen to them play. One day, their parents arranged a concert; the day before, Miki fell ill. Knowing she was not the musical genius her brother was, Kozue ran off and hid. She never touched the piano again.

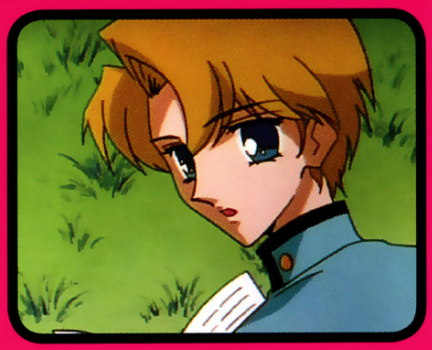
Why did Kozue play the piano with her twin brother if she had no talent? One of the boys in the neighbourhood liked her playing. She wanted to impress the boy who sent her a love letter telling her how beautiful her playing was. Once she ran away from the concert, the boy ceased his letter-writing. Kozue cannot play piano. Any beauty she coaxed out of the instrument lives only in Miki's head. Miki has an idealised image of his not-so perfect twin sister, and the image includes her playing beautiful music. A large portion of his attraction to Anthy Himemiya is her ability to fulfil the image of Miki's dream-Kozue.

Kozue blames Miki for falling ill and humiliating her before parents and friends. Although years have passed and most people have forgotten Kozue's debacle on the stage, she still goes out of her way to make her brother's life difficult. She harbours a strange love-hate relationship with her brother. She wants him all to herself, but she wants to hurt him, too.

At Ohtori Academy, Kozue and Miki have a constant, antagonistic relationship. Although they are fraternal twins, they live in different worlds. He is the youngest member of the Student Council, a handsome genius. Kozue Kaoru is just Kozue. Miki blames Kozue for losing his "shining thing," and Kozue blames Miki of letting her down when she needed him. She keeps as many boyfriends around as possible to annoy Miki and get his goat. If Miki is thinking about Kozue's boyfriends constantly, he will be thinking about *Kozue* constantly, making her the centre of his world — precisely what she wants.

To push Miki's buttons, Kozue falls to the depredations of Touga Kiryuu and ensures that Miki knows of every dalliance and interaction. Miki does not approve. He fumes. He gives his sister dirty looks, and reserves the dirtiest for when she comes near Touga. To her mind, that makes everything perfect.

Mitsuru Tsuwabuki



Mitsuru Tsuwabuki is an 8 year old elementary school student who becomes Nanami's "boyfriend"/slave. He follows Nanami's orders to the letter, hoping to learn how to be the proper big brother and take Touga's place in her heart Is Mitsuru Tsuwabuki utterly insane? Possibly. Does anyone notice at elite Ohtori Academy? Probably not.

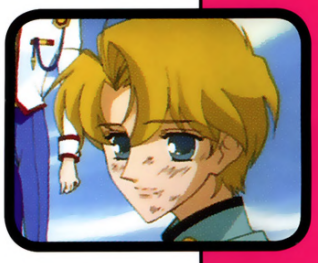
Once, a long time ago, Mitsuru Tsuwabuki witnessed Touga rescue Nanami from the direst of circumstances. Nanami was about to be tramped by a bull (Nanami has all kinds of strange issues with large rampaging animals) Mitsuru realised then the secret to Nanami's heart was her brother and rescuer, Touga, and he swore to take Touga's place in Nanami's affections. He staged horrible calamities to befall Nanami, only to rescue her just like a prince should. He drops flower pots on her head, unleashes runaway horses, and pushes her in front of moving cars — all so that he can swoop down at the last moment and save her life!

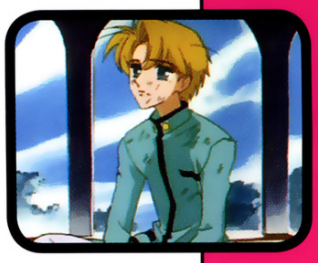
When Mitsuru rescues Nanami from the run away horse, she falls in love with him at first sight — as much as Nanami can fall in love with anyone who is not her brother. He bends down, cleans her scrapes, and hands her a perfumed monogrammed handkerchief. Of course, Mitsuru is years younger than Nanami, only in the 4th-grade, but what is a few years difference for true love?

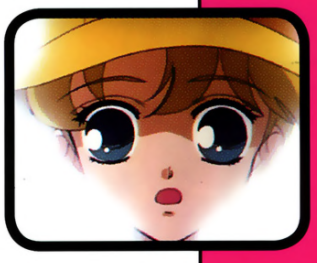
Although Mitsuru is an elementary school kid, Nanami agrees to be his "girlfriend," which translates in Nanami-speak into "slave driver who snaps her fingers and receives an instant response." If you are the most wealthy, most beautiful, and most popular girl in school, you clearly need a servant. Mitsuru does not care — bodyguard, boyfriend, it's all the same to him. Mitsuru becomes Nanami's floor mat. Be an easel? Get her gym bag? Sure! Anything for Nanami! This generates plenty of gossip around the halls of Ohtori Academy, but Nanami does not care. Mitsuru saved her from certain death, and therefore, he is now her boyfriend. End of discussion.

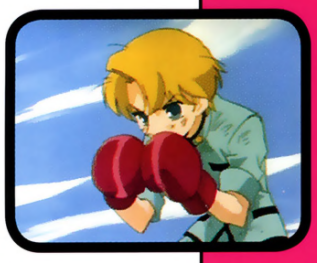
When Suzuki, Yamada and Tanaka accost Nanami in the hall of Ohtori Academy — a faintly creepy but obviously non-dangerous situation — Nanami snaps her fingers and orders Mitsuru to her side. Mitsuru, always the protector, beats up the three high school lovers-in-waiting in the courtyard between the buildings. Although they are stronger and faster, Mitsuru takes them on and wins. It is an impressive and unexpected win for the elementary-school boy.

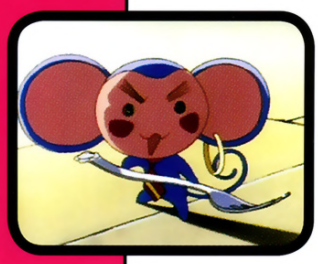
In time, however, Nanami learns Mitsuru both staged the dire deadly circumstances and rescued her. They decide to break off their long-running relationship of approximately a week. It is all for the best. When Mitsuru watches Touga beat up a runaway kangaroo, however, rescuing everyone easily, Mitsuru asks if he can be adopted into the Kiryuu family – perhaps as a younger brother instead of a heroic elder.

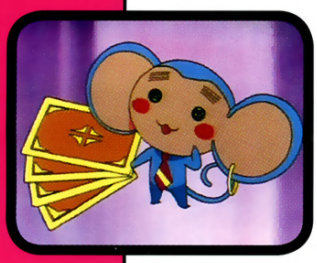


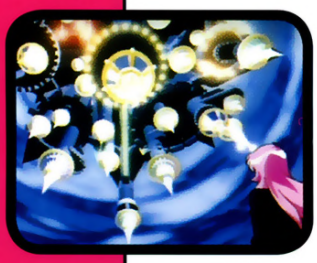


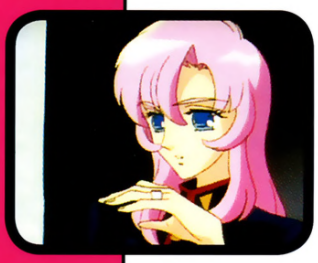


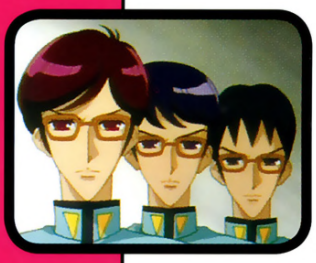












Chu-Chu

Chu-Chu is Anthy's best and only "friend." He is small, blue, and ravenous. Where there's lunch, there's Chu-Chu. He'll eat anything, and is not terribly discriminating. Chu-Chu is inexplicably afraid of the dark.

Chu-Chu is more of a companion than a pet. He is an ever-present friend who fills the void in Anthy's life where friends should be. As a small companion spirit, he has few powers. Mainly, he just is. His job is to get in trouble, doing anything from tormenting bugs in the Rose Garden, to making fun of Saionji, to flinging out a well-placed banana peel. Chu-Chu is almost an extension of Anthy's will, doing things Anthy thinks about doing but would never do herself.

His name is a pun on the Japanese for "Chuu-Chuu," the noise a mouse makes. In Japanese mythology, the mouse has almost prophetic powers over dream. Perhaps Chu-Chu is a representation of a vessel of Anthy's missing soul — always close by, but never completely there.

End of the World

Little is known about the enigmatic End of the World. No one has seen him and no one knows his ultimate plans. He commands the Student Council and coordinates the Duels through secret letters, closed and held fast with his seal. He designs the duels to promote a Duellist Champion, who will break the world's shell and bring about world revolution.

Touga has an inside line to End of the World, to whom he speaks at length on his cell phone. The two of them together conspire to get Saionji to kidnap Anthy and bring her to the duelling platform, against End of the World's own strange and twisted set of rules. End of the World plays a meta-game within the duelling game to keep it interesting and, presumably, to keep anyone from reaching the final duel named Revolution.

As far as the Student Council knows, Ohtori Academy has always had an End of the World, and will always have an End of the World. They cannot imagine an Ohtori Academy without him.

Suzuki, Yamada and Tanaka

Suzuki, Yamada and Tanaka are three junior high students who write Nanami love letters every day. Hearing the situation with Mitsuru Tsuwabuki, they confront Nanami in the hallway. They cannot possibly allow Nanami to date an elementary school kid! That's… that's just horrible! Worse, Nanami offends them when she cannot remember their names Bored and annoyed, Nanami snaps her fingers and summons Mitsuru Tsuwabuki to fight them. Despite their advanced age and size, they are easily defeated by Mitsuru Tsuwabuki, the elementary school kid, who leaves them broken and bloodied in the Ohtori Academy courtyard.

The Shadow Girls

The shadow girls are the voice of the school, the sounds of gossip in the halls, and the voice of karma. Not supporting cast or even actual characters, the shadow girls perform abstract kabuki theatre on the walls of Ohtori Academy. They represent the inner thoughts and feelings of Utena's soul and the ongoing themes in each episode of *Revolutionary Girl Utena*. Did you know? Did you know? Did you really know?

Soul of Dios

The Duellists are normal teenage high school students — no magic, no mystical techniques, and no nifty tricks. They fight with their training, prowess with a blade, and force of will. The blessed one chosen to reach the duel named Revolution, however, may be possessed by the power of the Castle Where Eternity Dwells — the Soul of Dios.

Dios sits sleeping on his shell. In his dreams, he chooses one duellist to be his champion. In mid-duel, his soul descends from the Castle Where Eternity Dwells and possesses his chosen doppelganger. Victory is not assured, as the duellist must complete the fight themselves, but a willing, prepared, and ready duellist possessed by Dios ends battles swiftly. Once the battle ends, so does the power Dios confers to a duellist.

The few glimpses of Dios are equivalent to Utena's view of her Prince. If Dios is Utena's Prince, then her Prince lives in the Castle Where Eternity Dwells at the end of the Duelling game. The only way for her to find her Prince is to win.

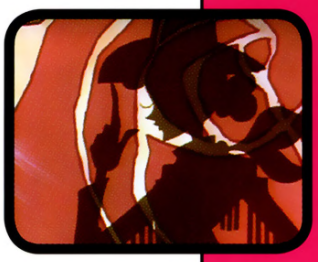
Nanami's Minions

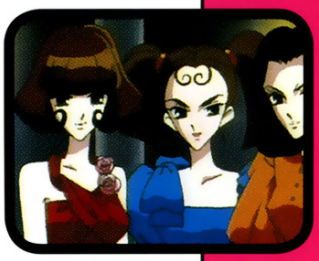
"Have you done anything to anyone lately?" Miki asks.

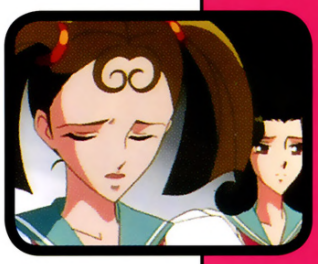
"She has," Nanami's followers say, "but nothing that would get traced back to her. Her policy is not to get her own hands dirty."

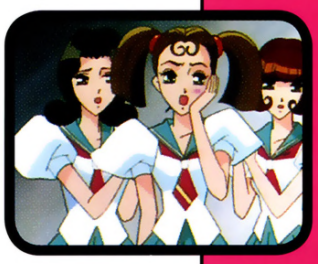
Nanami has a small phalanx of nameless girls who follow her around and do her bidding. The three girls antagonise Anthy, preen over Touga, carry out Nanami's orders, and follow Nanami to India in search of secret spices. Nanami does not like getting her hands dirty, so she leaves the underhanded work of getting incriminating photographs, swapping curries, or staging embarrassing situations to her loyal minions.

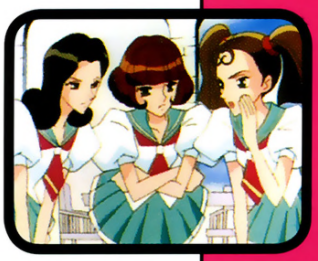
The three girls have a nasty disposition. They use Nanami to raise their own social status among the female high school population of Ohtori Academy. They are willing to kick, slap, bite, or abuse to get what they want. Where Nanami is the brains, they are the brute strength When Nanami needs Anthy smacked around for some slight, usually at her brother, Nanami's minions are always ready to do a little fighting, kicking, and biting in the name of their mistress

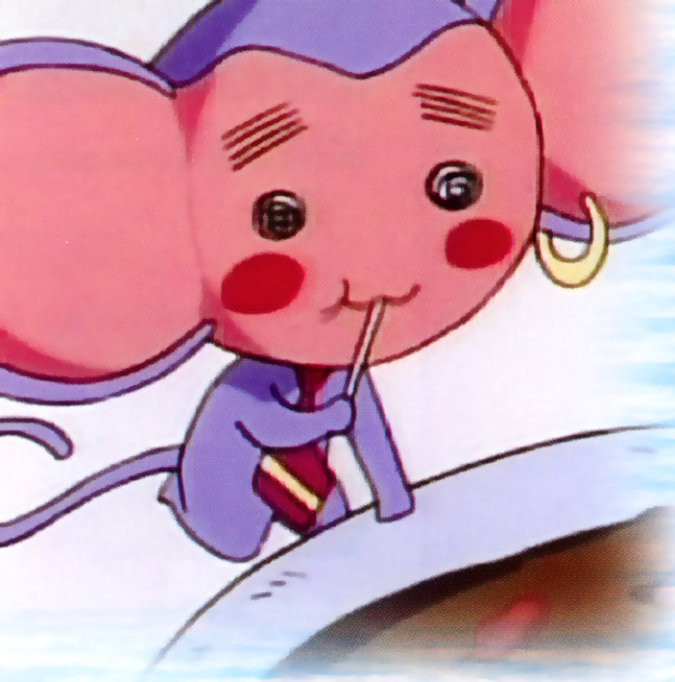








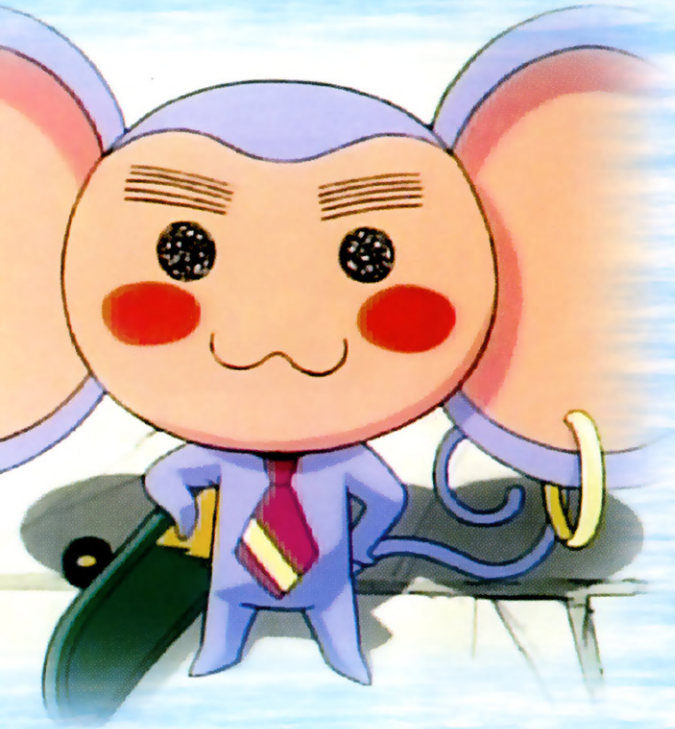




Revolutionary Girl Utena Credits

English Language Cast

Utena Tenjou/Chu-Chu	Rachel Lillis
Anthy Himemya	Sharon Becker
Wakaba Shinohara	Annie Pondell
Nanami Kiryuu	Leah Applebaum
Touga Kiryuu	Crispin Freeman
Kyoichi Saionji	Jack Taylor
Jury Arisugawa	Mandy Bonhomme
Miki Kaoru	Jimmy Zoppi



Japanese Language Cast

Utena Tenjou	Tomoko Kawakami
Anthy Himemya	Yuriko Fuchizaki
Wakaba Shinohara	Yuka Imai
Nanami Kiryuu	Yuri Siratori
Touga Kiryuu	Takehito Koyasu
Kyoichi Saionji	Takeshi Kusao
Jury Arisugawa	Kotono Mitsuishi
Miki Kaoru	Aya Hiskawa
Chu-Chu	Satomi Kohrogi

Behind the Scenes

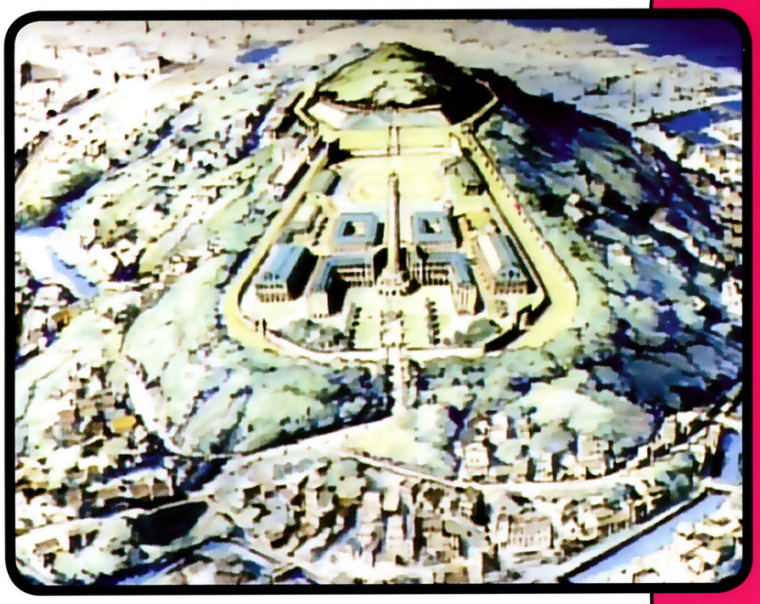
Original Story	BE-PAPAS
Director	Kunihiko Ikuhara
Story & Original Character Design	Chiho Saito (Published by SHOGAKU-KAN)
Series Structure	Yoji Enokido
Character Design	Shinya Hasegawa
Produced by	TV TOKYO/YOMIURI ADVERTISING

English Language Version

Executive Producer	John O'Donnell
Producer	Stephanie Shalofsky
Production Coordinator	Karen Havle
Translation	Neil Nadelman
DVD Coordinator	Eric Thomann
DVD Premastering and Menu Design	Crush Digital Video

Setting and Places

The Ohtori Academy is an exclusive private boarding school from the earliest grades through High School. It has several buildings for classes, an extensive set of same-sex only dormitories, and outdoor courts for tennis, baseball diamonds, fencing rooms, and martial arts rooms. In the courtyard of the main campus stands the Rose Garden. Large numbers of students attend Ohtori Academy every year.

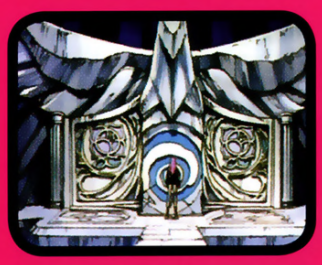


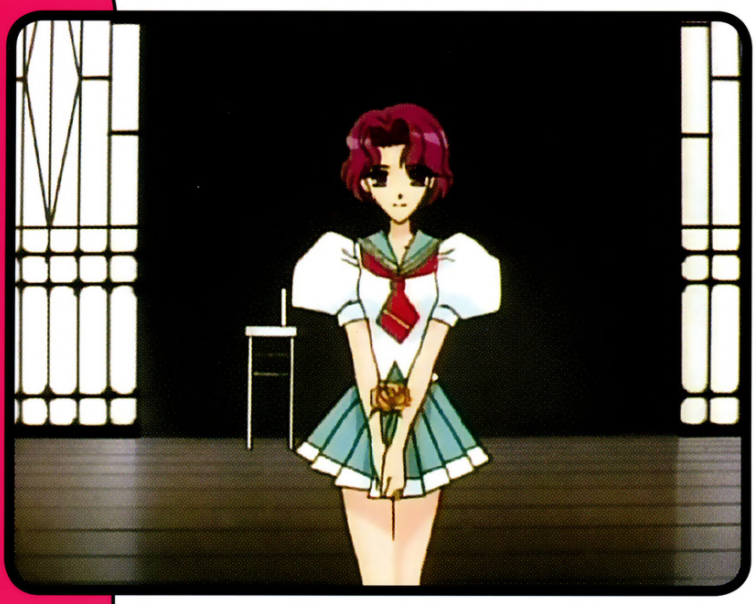
Dormitory

Utena and Anthy's room is nice and surprisingly large for a dorm room It contains a bunk bed, a desk, a dresser, and a closet. It was originally designated as a single, but Anthy's assignment to the room turned the dorm room into a double. While very clean and neat, the entire dormitory is devoid of other students. It is eerily empty, and some of the other students call the dormitory, "haunted." A large, black grand piano is in the main common room of the dormitory. The building also contains a library, a large foyer, and a formal dining room.

The Duelling Arena

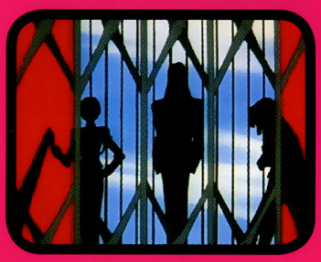
The Ohtori Academy duelling arena is a strange, tree-lined area far off the main drag of the school. The entire park-like area is concealed by an enormous white wall with entangled rose motifs and trees. The door only opens for those wearing the Rose Seal. Once inside, a long spiral stairway leads up into the sky. At the very top stands the long, oval duelling platform. The platform is surrounded by a low stone wall. Over the platform hangs the upside-down Castle Where Eternity Dwells, with its minarets pointing perilously close to the platform floor.

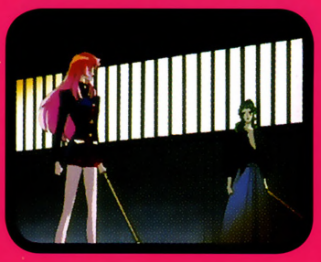




The Fencing Room

The Fencing Room contains a mat for fencing practice, racks full of gear against one wall, and doors to the nearby locker rooms. Ceiling to floor windows line the long wall, shining long beams of warm sunlight onto the practice mats. The sounds of steel on steel ring off the walls and down the hall outside. Within, one can almost always find at least two members of the Fencing Team crossing foils.





The Student Council Tower

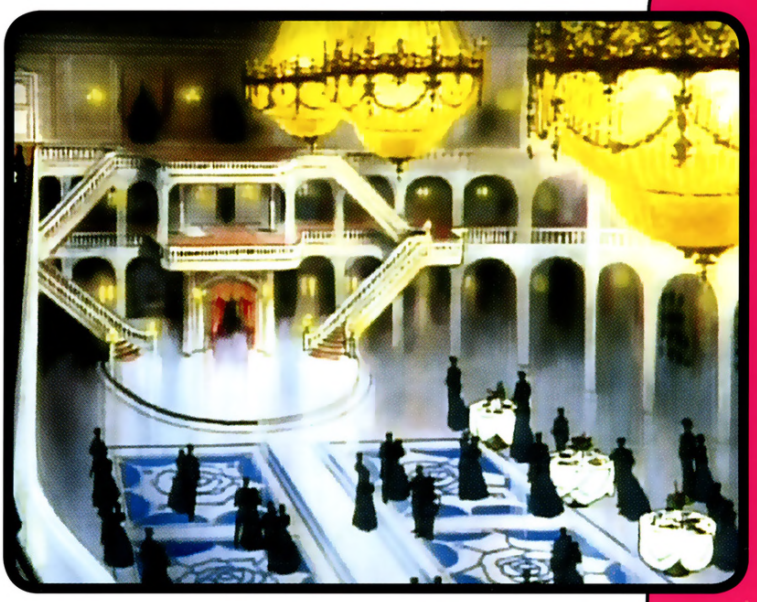
The Student Council meets atop one of the towers of Ohtori Academy. From their vantage point, the entire academy is laid bare from the far dormitories to the duelling arena. The room on the top of the tower can only be reached via a special key in the elevator. Only Student Council members have a key. The meeting "room" for the Student Council is not a room at all. The open air balcony holds a table and four chairs. Its greatest feature is the view of the duelling arena. With a pair of spyglasses, one of the Student Council members can watch the others duel from afar without being involved.

The Kendo Room

The Kendo room is much like the Fencing Room, except instead of being well lit and sunny, this is dark and cavernous. The floor is lined with mats for protection of the students who practice, and against the far wall is a rack filled with equipment. The students here are serious and quiet, engaged in their rigorous study of the martial art.

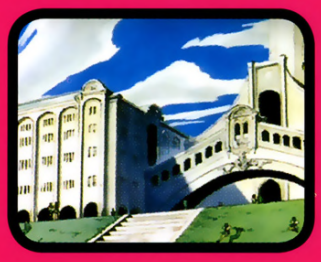
The Kiryuu Mansion

The Kiryuu Home is a large mansion complex just outside the walls of Ohtori Academy. Every possible convenience is available at the mansion — servants, cars, money, food, clothing, and entertainment. Balconies sprout from large French windows along the second floor, hanging over manicured gardens. Ohtori Academy's most posh and exclusive parties meet in the Kiryuu Mansion's ballroom.



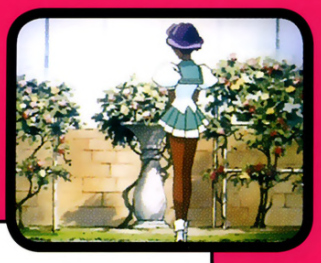
The Ohtori Academy

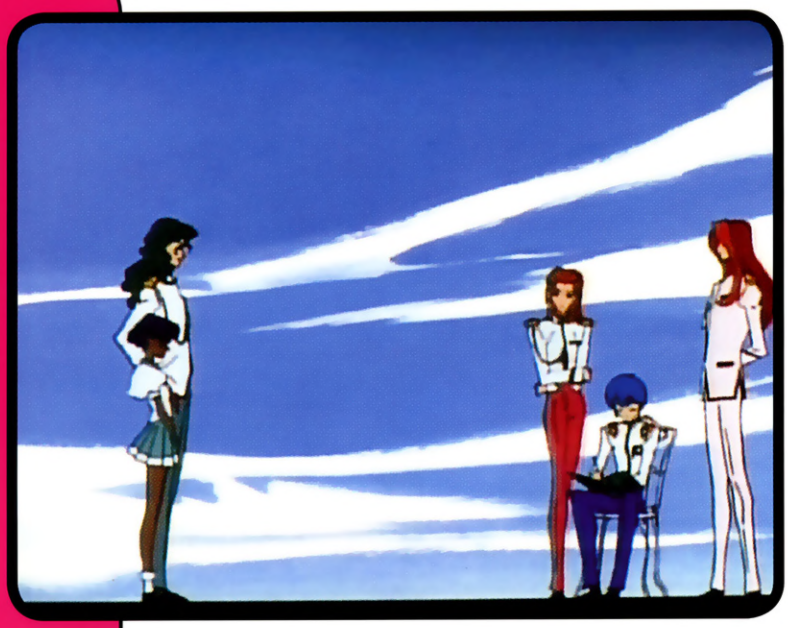
Ohtori Academy's architecture takes its inspiration from pre-revolutionary France, with a graceful rose motif used throughout campus. Roses decorate its pristine white walls, while large lines of bells hang from the grey upper sections Outside the walls are white walkways lined with trees and fountains. The grounds are kept pristine by the never-seen gardening staff.



The Rose Garden

In the centre of the courtyard stands the Rose Garden. The delicate white conical building stands almost 20 feet tall, tapering to a small dome at the top. Within the Rose Garden, roses line almost every available surface. Several breeds of roses sit in separated pots. While the Rose Garden is the home for several different species of rose, the most predominant is the common red. This strangely shaped building is a good conduit for light to grow the finicky plants. Beneath the shelves of roses are buckets of plant food, plant fertiliser, and insect repellent.

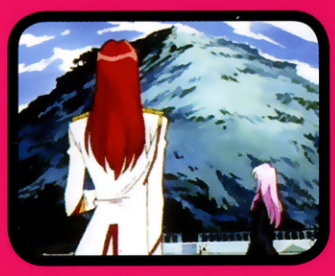


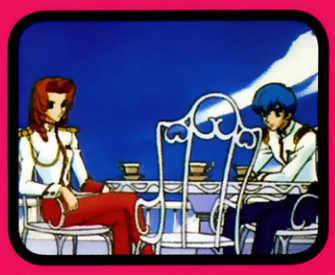


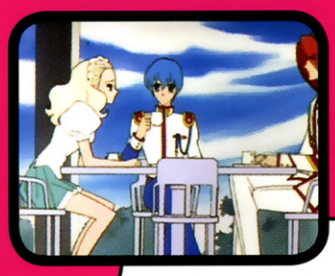
The Student Council

Once, only the four students on the Ohtori Academy's Student Council played the Duelling game. These students were the best of the best — the smartest, the strongest, most forceful of personality, and all trusted with a vast conspiracy. Now, they fight against Utena, the interloper into the game who fights not for power, but for friendship

The Student Council receives their orders from a mysterious entity named End of the World. End of the World might be a single person, or might be a group — even the Student Council is unsure. The letters from End of the World always choose the next pair of duellists to fight in the arena. The letters may also contain other directives to the Student Council. Before the coming of Utena, the duels were fought between Student Council members only under the direction of End of the World. Now, they fight Utena to wrest the Rose Bride from her possession.



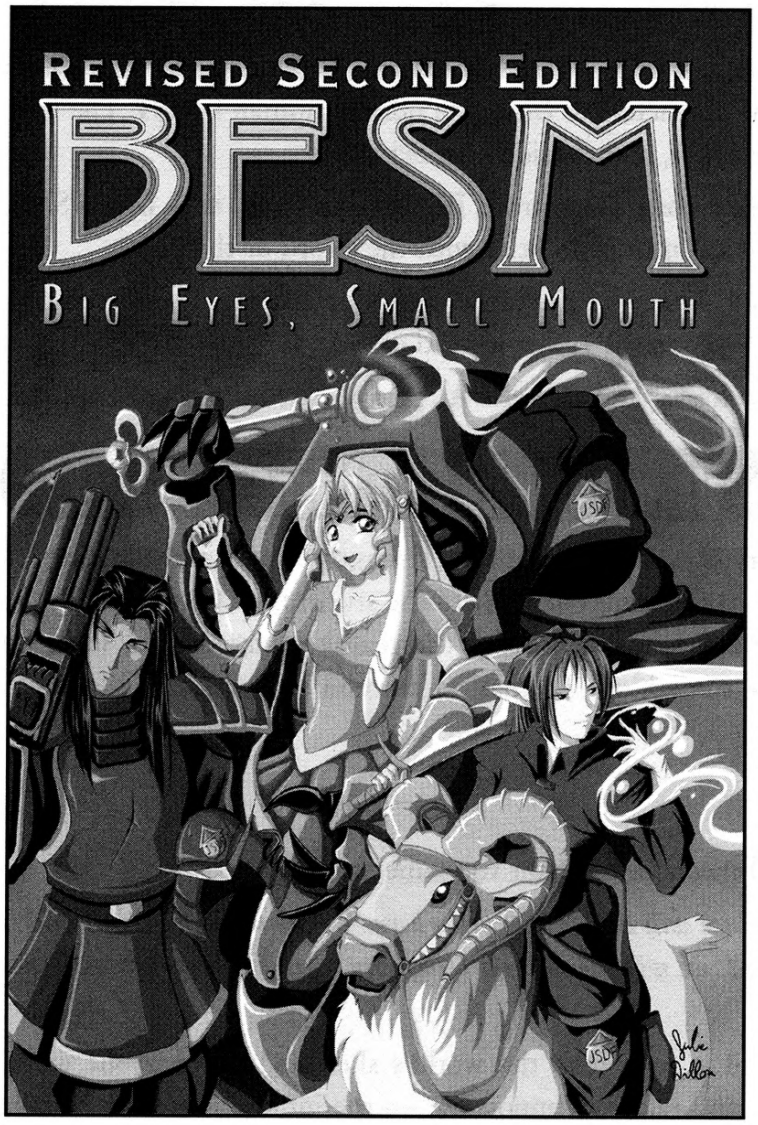




End of the World tells the Student Council only what they absolutely need to know. The Council understands they duel for possession of the Rose Bride, and whoever possesses the Rose Bride will enter the Castle over the duelling arena. They play an elaborate game that will lead to "breaking the world's shell." Beyond that, they know no more. They theorise and ponder, but they have no more answers than Utena does

Touga has an inside track to End of the World. He knows considerably more about the game than his fellow Student Council members. He receives private calls on his cell phone from End of the World, and they chat for hours. What they talk about — no one knows. It is unknown whether Touga gained additional access to End of the World because of who he is, or because of his position as president of the Student Council. Where he to be deposed from his position, it is unclear whether his successor would be able to contact End of the World regularly as well.

Revolutionary Girl Utena and Role-Playing



The *Revolutionary Girl Utena* universe is a great setting for an anime-based *BESM* campaign, with a mix of high school romance, intrigue, and mysterious duels. Although most of *BESM Revolutionary Girl Utena #1* provides resource and reference material for the series, the following information is for those who wish to role-play in the world of *Revolutionary Girl Utena*.

BESM Revolutionary Girl Utena

Guardians of Order publishes two other *BESM Revolutionary Girl Utena* books:

BESM Revolutionary Girl Utena #2: The Black Rose Saga
ISBN 1-8945255-96-5
Product Code 02-921

BESM Revolutionary Girl Utena #3: The Apocalypse Saga
ISBN 1-894938-14-3
Product Code 02-923

Big Eyes, Small Mouth

Guardians of Order publishes a multi-genre Japanese anime role-playing game called *Big Eyes Small Mouth*, first in a standard edition (ISBN 1-894525-09-4) and later in a Revised Second Edition (ISBN 1-894525-45-0). BESM contains all the game rules, mechanics, and guidelines you need to establish an anime RPG campaign in any setting, genre, or period.

If you plan on hosting your game within the *Revolutionary Girl Utena* setting, you may wish to use the game statistics provided for the series characters. Additionally, the reference list, rules, and suggestions for incorporating *Revolutionary Girl Utena* elements into your game can provide vital insight into campaign construction. *Revolutionary Girl Utena*-specific material, in combination with the core *BESM* rules, gives you everything you need to start role-playing right away.

If you are unfamiliar with the concept of table-top RPG and would like to learn more on the Internet, please visit Guardian of Order's website at http://www.guardiansorder.com.

BESM and Revolutionary Girl Utena

Use the guidelines below when building your own *Revolutionary Girl Utena* characters:

• Aside from the nearly superhuman ability with swords and sword fighting that many of the characters in *Utena* possess, the characters of *Utena* are normal human beings. The only exception to this is Chu-Chu — he is a pet, and considered a Servant.

• Use the Teenage Romance Skill costs chart from BESM. Skills cap at 3 Levels/Skill, although some characters are world-class in their abilities with the sword or the piano.

• *Revolutionary Girl Utena* uses Energy Points for soul duelling and soul combat. Consequently, each rank in the Soul Stat costs 2 Points instead of only 1.

• Many *Utena* characters are attractive, and thus the Attractive Attribute is not required.

Cosmology of Revolutionary Girl Utena

Revolutionary Girl Utena is a story of adolescence, magic, strength of will, and standing up for core values regardless of the cost to the soul. For most of the students at Ohtori Academy, the school is just a school. For the few who are wise to the reality of the school, they see conspiracies to grasp some power — something "Eternal" at the end of the road, where Dios sleeps on the shell of the world.

The Student Council

Every time the Student Council meets, they chant the same rhyme:

If it cannot break its egg's shell, a chick will die without being born. We are the chick. The world is our egg. If we don't crack the world's shell, we will die without being born. Smash the world's shell! For the revolution of the world!

The aim of the Student Council is to "break the world's shell and bring about world revolution." They want to reach out and take the impossible — the infinite power to remake the world in their own image. Whoever cracks the world's shell gains the power of miracles — a power so alluring and so wonderful that he or she will do anything to get it. The Student Council hopes to smash the world's shell and give themselves the power to bring revolution to the world. End of the World assures them this power will give them their heart's desire. Yet, they are still a "chick" with their fears constraining them to the real world, their "egg." If they do not smash the world's shell, they will never be truly alive. Consequently, the Student Council stays and fights the duels; so that one day, they hope, one among them will enter the Castle and gain "eternity."

The problem is that the game is a trap. No one can win because they are so obsessed with winning that they can no longer look past the prize. At the same time, they cannot leave the game; it has gone too far now to quit. The pull of the conspiracy keeps them there, since leaving means giving up position, knowledge, prestige, even power within the walls of Ohtori Academy.

Cosmology of Revolutionary Girl Utena (cont.)

The Castle Where Eternity Dwells

The outcome of the duels lies within the Castle Where Eternity Dwells, hanging in upside-down over the Ohtori Academy duelling arena. The power of the Rose Bride may lower the Castle to allow a Duelling Champion to enter. Whoever enters the Castle will have the power to bring the world revolution and something "eternal." It is unclear what something "eternal" is, but the allusion is that the winner will have his or her heart's desire for eternity, without want or need.

The Castle Where Eternity Dwells houses the spirit of the Prince of Dios — the same Prince who gave Utena her signet ring, who possesses her during the duels, and who imbues her with the spirit of nobility. Within the Castle, the spirit of Dios sleeps upon his unbroken black egg. He slumbers upon the world's shell. When he wakes, the shell will break. When the shell breaks, the winner will bring the world revolution, and the world will change forever.

No one knows when the Castle appeared, why it hangs upside down over the duelling arena, or how to enter. As far as the Student Council members know, the Castle, duels, and duelling arena have always been there. They were there before they joined the Student Council, and they expect them to be there afterwards. The Castle exerts a powerful pull on all who duel for the Rose Bride. They must duel to enter, and to enter is to gain eternity, earn the power of miracles, and bring about world revolution. The Castle is a constant reminder that the prize is real: the Rose Bride is the key.

The Duels

At the end of the first season of *Revolutionary Girl Utena*, the man who is End of the World tells sleeping Dios that the duellists of the Student Council could never enter the Castle and break the world's shell because they have lost hope. Utena has not lost hope. She strives to win without worry or half-forgotten fears and dreams. Perhaps Utena will finally fight the duel named "Revolution" and enter the Castle.

The duels are a fight between two souls, each battling for the strength and temerity to bring the world revolution. Only the strongest soul may enter the Castle. Each duel is a spiritual battle reflecting a different aspect of the soul. The duels are encoded within the walls of the Castle: Friendship, Choice, Reason, Love, Adoration, Conviction, and Self. The duellist must triumph over each aspect — and others — to reach the final duel named Revolution and enter the Castle.

The duels have little to do with actual skill at swordplay. This is a game. End of the World sends his letters and co-ordinates the right players with the right duels, hoping for the right combination to open the Castle doors. The right pyramid of players and moves will bring world revolution.

Once on the duelling platform, the swords are a conduit for the power of spirit. The soul is laid bare, and whoever has the driving will to win, wins. The power of Dios — the power of the Prince, and perhaps the power of the Castle — conveys extra force of will to overcome opponents. "The miracle," as Touga calls it.

Most duellists do not understand the spiritual nature of the game. For them, the battles are about skill with a blade, desire, and no more — so they lose. They have no hope. They dwell on the empty hole in their soul. They use only the weapons in their hands, which is the losing path. A duellist can be the greatest swordsman or swordswoman in the universe, but unless he or she has the spiritual force of will to carry out their wishes, the duel cannot be won.

Characters of Revolutionary Girl Utena

The characters of *Revolutionary Girl Utena* cost between 10 and 50 Points depending on the age and experience of the character. The wide range reflects the range of life experience and acquired abilities. Some characters, like Nanami, are only 13 years old and relatively weak, thus they are built on few Points. Touga, however, is nearing adulthood and costs more Points.

Only Attributes and Defects applicable to normal human characters can be bought with Points for *Revolutionary Girl Utena*. Attributes that unnaturally modify a character (Elasticity, Extra Arms, etc.) or confer magical powers onto the character (Dynamic Sorcery, Flight, Force Field, etc.) are not used in character creation.

Use discretion when building a character. If the power does not fit into the atmosphere of Ohtori Academy or the duelling arena, it likely should not be used in creating a character for *Revolutionary Girl Utena*.

Soul Combat and the Duel for the Rose Bride

Once the characters of *Revolutionary Girl Utena* stand face to face on the duelling platform, they no longer fight with physical weapons. The duel is a test of will, a struggle between two souls. Soul combat is symbolically represented by a sword duel.

Soul combat is a variant on normal combat. Each round of combat takes 1 to 10 seconds from the character's point of view. The exact scale is not relevant; the time it takes for one round of soul combat is equivalent to one round of normal combat. Only two combatants may participate in a soul duel at one time.

Soul combat can only be fought in the Duelling Arena (see page XX). The school has strict rules on fighting, duels, and the duellists; fighting outside the arena leads to expulsion.

Soul combat attacks are Soul attacks — duellists roll against their Soul Stats to attack and defend, rather than Attack and Defence Combat Values. The damage from a Soul attack is equivalent to a physical attack. Damage, though, is applied to the character's Energy Points instead of Health Points. When a character is reduced to zero or below Energy Points, the opposing character has removed the rose from the losing character's breast and ends the duel.

The victor now becomes engaged to the Rose Bride.

A character may employ physical attacks during a duel, although this is strictly against the rules. A physical combat attack does damage to the opposing character's Health Points as normal. If the character defeats his or her opponent by dealing physical damage but not through Soul damage, he or she will not technically win the duel … even though the opponent is down and the rose easily plucked from the breast. The offending duellist will be expelled from the duels and Ohtori Academy by End of the World.

Damage from Soul combat may manifest in a physical — although not dangerous — form: torn clothing, broken swords, a sword blade thrust through a shadow, or other symbols of triumph. This physical manifestation is permanent; if clothing is torn, for example, it stays torn once the duel ends. As above, these are still Soul hits, not physical hits.

Advice for the Game Master

Revolutionary Girl Utena is a game rich in campaign opportunities. It blends high-school soap opera drama with conspiracy play. Typical games revolve around the central theme of the Student Council and the quest for the Rose Bride. Most campaigns will involve the player characters as Student Council members, all vying for the Rose Bride and plotting against one another to keep her.

Be light handed when Game Mastering the *Revolutionary Girl Utena* game setting. Player characters never die, and no one ever bears more than a scratch after a duel in the duelling arena. Characters may cause great infractions to End of the World's "rules" before being cast out of Ohtori Academy – and even then, with their connections to the Student Council, they are sure to be restored back to their rightful place after a few "episodes" of conniving.

The teachers and other students are a backdrop, to be created and used by the GM, but never to overshadow the main plot. Average students should never be involved in the duels, although they may be siblings, friends, and love interests. They also may come and go by transferring to and from other schools, moving away, or even dying.

Revolutionary Girl Utena is a world of rising tensions as the duellists get closer to the final duel: Revolution. *Revolutionary Girl Utena #1* never defines who End of the World is, the true role of Dios and the Castle, or the power to bring world revolution. The prize at the end of the game has not yet been defined. The Game Master has almost infinite latitude filling in these questions with answers of his or her own.

Items of Power

The Soul of Dios (20 Points)

During a duel for the Rose Bride, the Soul of Dios may descend from the Castle Where Eternity Dwells and possess one character.

The Soul of Dios temporarily transfers the listed Attributes onto the possessed character. It cannot be permanently owned by any one character. The possession only happens during a duel, and ends the moment the duel ends. The Soul of Dios cannot be used for any purpose other than to end a duel. Its transferred Attributes may only be used in soul combat. The transferred attributes do not add to physical, normal combat.

Attributes

Energy Bonus	2
Enhanced Stat [Soul]	5
Massive Damage (Energy Points)	4

The Sword of Dios (20 Points)

The Sword of Dios is the sword pulled from Anthy Himemya's chest by the Engaged during a duel for the Rose Bride. The sword confers "vast power" to any who know its secrets. The character using the Sword of Dios gains a temporary Item of Power, usable only during that specific duel. It does not exist outside the duelling platform, and cannot be used in any other sword fight. When the combat is concluded, the sword disappears.

Attributes

Energy Bonus	3
Weapon Attack (60 Damage; Hand-held, Quake, Melee)	4
Weapon Attack (15 Damage; Drain Soul, Soul Attack, Melee, No Damage)	1

New Skills

Some characters in *Revolutionary Girl Utena* have skills that are not covered in *BESM*.

New Skill Costs

General Skills	Teenage Romance
Area Knowledge	3
Artisan	2
Domestic Arts	4
Etiquette	3
Intimidation	2

Area Knowledge

Relevant Stat: Mind

Specialisations: One specific locale (city, forest, sea, desert, mountain) within the area

Knowledge of the geography and people of a single area (choose one area) and a specific locale within it. The smaller the area, the more detailed and extensive the character's knowledge. This Skill may be assigned multiple times to indicate knowledge of several areas.

Artisan

Relevant Stat: Average of Body and Soul

Specialisations: Carpentry, Flower Arranging, Metalworking, Tailoring, Woodworking

This Skill represents a character's ability to work with a variety of materials to repair or produce useful or aesthetically pleasing objects not electronic or mechanical in nature.

Domestic Arts

Relevant Stat: Mind or Soul

Specialisations: Cleaning, Cooking, Decorating, Home Budgeting

The ability to efficiently organise and run a domestic household.

Etiquette

Relevant Stat: Mind

Specialisations: Lower Class, Middle Class, Upper Class

The knowledge of polite, proper, and inoffensive behaviour in social settings.

Intimidation

Relevant Stat: Body, Mind, or Soul

Specialisations: Business, Political, Schoolyard, Street

The ability to convincingly project a "tough guy" image. A successful check means someone witnessing your performance is convinced you mean any threats you make. How they react after that will depend on how tough they are themselves in relation to the kind of threat you present — they may respond with respect, fear, hatred, or amusement.

New Attributes

The Soul of Dios – and perhaps other Items of Power – are able to give characters benefits above and beyond those in *BESM*.

Enhanced Stat

Cost: 1 or 2 Points/Level

This Attribute is useful when a character should have one or more high Stat Values, but the player wants to indicate that the elevated Stats were gained after a supernatural event occurred or a particular item was acquired. For most instances, assigning Character Points to the Enhanced [Stat] Attribute or to the Stat directly results in the same benefit: a character with a Soul of 10 or a Soul of 7 with Enhanced [Soul] at Level 3 both have a Soul of 10. Enhanced [Soul] costs 2 Points/Level, while Enhanced [Body] or [Mind] costs 1 Point/Level.

Organisational Ties (Student Council)

Cost: 3 Points/Level

Membership in the Student Council gives a character tremendous power at the Ohtori Academy, and is thus worth 3 Points/Level.

New Kensei Abilities

Kensei is described in detail on page 46 of *BESM*.

Leap Attack

The character can make leaping attacks with his or her melee weapon, delivering additional damage due to momentum. Any time the character has a higher Initiative than his or her opponent, he or she may attempt a leaping attack. If the strike is successful (it hits and the target fails a defence) the character gets an extra +5 bonus to damage and may additionally add his or her Acrobatics Skill Level (if any) to the damage. If the character fails to hit, however, or the opponent succeeds with his or her defence, the character is off balance and receives a -2 penalty to any further defence checks until his or her turn to act in the following round.

Lightning Reflexes

The character reacts quickly in combat and frequently outmanoeuvres opponents. Each time this technique is selected, the character gains +5 to all his or her Initiative rolls.

UTENA TENJOU

Total Character Points 35 / Total Skill Points 30

CHARACTER STATS

Body Stat	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mind Stat	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Soul Stat	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

DERIVED VALUES

Attack Combat Value	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Defense Combat Value	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Health Points	70	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
Energy Points	70	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120

ATTRIBUTES

Divine Relationship	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Extra Attacks	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Highly Skilled	1	1	2	3	4	5	6

SKILLS

Riding (Horse)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sports (Basketball)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Melee Attack (Sword of Dios)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Melee Defence (Sword of Dios)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6

"... I REMEMBER THE PRINCE LOOKED SO IMPRESSIVE TO ME. AND THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BE LIKE HIM. YEAH. I GUESS I WEAR THIS SO I CAN BE A LITTLE BIT CLOSER TO HIM."

Anthy Himemiya

Total Character Points 32 / Total Skill Points 30

Character Stats

Body Stat	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mind Stat	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Soul Stat	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Derived Values

Attack Combat Value	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Defense Combat Value	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Health Points	60	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
Energy Points	70	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120

Attributes

Divine Relationship	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Highly Skilled	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Organisational Ties (Student Council)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Servant (Chu-Chu)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6

Skills

Artisan (Flower Arranging)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Domestic Arts (Gardening)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Etiquette (Upper Class)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cultural Arts (Occult)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Performing Arts (Piano)	3	1	2	3	4	5	6

Defects

Unique Defect: Rose Bride	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Owned (Engaged)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6

Chu-Chu (5 Character Points, 0 Skill Points)

Body 1 Mind 2 Soul 2

Health Points 15 Energy Points 20

Attack Combat Value 1 Defence Combat Value 1

Attributes

Features (Prehensile Tail) 1, Heightened Senses (Vision) 1, Divine Relationship 1

Defects

Diminutive -3, Unskilled -2

Touga Kiryuu

Total Character Points 50 / Total Skill Points 60

Character Stats

Body Stat	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mind Stat	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Soul Stat	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Derived Values

Attack Combat Value	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Defense Combat Value	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Health Points	80	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
Energy Points	70	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120

Attributes

Divine Relationship	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Highly Skilled	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
Kensei	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Judge Opponent, Lightning Reflexes)							
Organisational Ties (Student Council)	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
Damn Healthy!	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Unique Character Attribute (Wealth)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6

Skills

Etiquette (Upper Class)	3	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cultural Arts (Occultism)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Seduction (Female)	3	1	2	3	4	5	6
Melee Attack (Kendo)	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
Melee Defence (Kendo)	3	1	2	3	4	5	6

Defects

Unique Character Defect (Famous)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6

"I won by pure skill." – Touga

"You seem to prefer plots." – Jury

"I played the part of the noble prince, and rescued the lonely princess." – Touga

Kyoichi Saionji

Total Character Points 40 / Total Skill Points 30

Character Stats

Body Stat	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mind Stat	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Soul Stat	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Derived Values

Attack Combat Value	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Defense Combat Value	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Health Points	65	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
Energy Points	50	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120

Attributes

Extra Attacks	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Highly Skilled	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Kensei (Leap Attack)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Organisational Ties (Student Council)	3	1	2	3	4	5	6

Skills

Intimidation (Political)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cultural Arts (Occultism)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Melee Attack (Kendo)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Melee Defence (Kendo)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6

Defects

Unique Character Defect	2	1	2

- Obsessed with Anthy and with defeating Touga

"The sword must be wielded by a great swordsman! Be prepared to witness my true power!"

Jury Arisugawa

Total Character Points 40 / Total Skill Points 40

Character Stats

Body Stat	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mind Stat	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Soul Stat	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Derived Values

Attack Combat Value	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Defense Combat Value	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Health Points	55	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
Energy Points	60	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120

Attributes

Kensei	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Judge Opponent, Lightning Reflexes							
Extra Attacks	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Highly Skilled	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Organisational Ties (Student Council)	3	1	2	3	4	5	6

Skills

Intimidation (Political)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Melee Attack (Foil)	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
Melee Defence (Foil)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
2 Unused Skill Points	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

"You see, you just have to give up. Because there really are no such things as miracles."

Miki "Mickey" Kaoru

Total Character Points 45 / Total Skill Points 40

Character Stats

Body Stat	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mind Stat	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Soul Stat	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Derived Values

Attack Combat Value	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Defense Combat Value	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Health Points	60	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
Energy Points	80	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120

Attributes

Kensei	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Lightning Reflexes							
Extra Attacks	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Focused Damage (Foil)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Heightened Awareness	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Heightened Senses (Musical Ear)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Highly Skilled	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Organisational Ties (Student Council)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6

Skills

Business Management	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Student Council							
Performing Arts (Piano)	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
Melee Attack (Foil)	3	1	2	3	4	5	6
Melee Defence (Foil)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6

"And for that, I must have Anthy the Rose Bride!" – Mickey

"I think you should just stick to piano playing. It suits you much better." – Utena

Nanami Kiryuu

Total Character Points 30 / Total Skill Points 20

Character Stats

Body Stat	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mind Stat	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Soul Stat	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Derived Values

Attack Combat Value	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Defense Combat Value	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Health Points	40	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
Energy Points	50	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120

Attributes

Flunkies	3	1	2	3	4	5	6
Organisational Ties (Student Council)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Unique Character Attribute (Wealth)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6

Skills

Etiquette (Upper Class)	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
Seduction (Male)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Melee Attack (Kendo)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Melee Defence (Kendo)	1	1	2	3	4	5	6

"My ring was given to me by my Prince! My Prince will lead me to victory!"

Nanami's Minions

Total Character Points 10 / Total Skill Points 0

Body 3 Mind 4 Soul 2

Health Points 25 Energy Points 30

Attack Combat Value 3 Defence Combat Value 1

Skills

Area Knowledge (Ohtori Academy) 2, Domestic Arts (Cooking) 1

Defects

Unskilled -1

Wakaba Shinohara

Total Character Points 16 / Total Skill Points 10

Body 4 Mind 4 Soul 4

Health Points 40 Energy Points 40

Attack Combat Value 4 Defence Combat Value 2

Attributes

Divine Relationship 1

Skills

Area Knowledge (Ohtori Academy) 2, Domestic Arts (Cooking) 1

Defects

Unskilled -1

Kozue Kaoru

Total Character Points 18 / Total Skill Points 20

Body 4 Mind 4 Soul 4

Health Points 50 Energy Points 40

Attack Combat Value 4 Defence Combat Value 2

Attributes

Divine Relationship 2

SKILLS

Area Knowledge (Ohtori Academy) 2, Etiquette (Upper Class) 3, Seduction (Male) 1, Unused Skill Point 1

Mitsuru Tsuwabuki

Total Character Points 25 / Total Skill Points 20

Body 4 Mind 5 Soul 6

Health Points 50 Energy Points 55

Attack Combat Value 1 Defence Combat Value 5

Attributes

Divine Relationship 1, Organisational Ties (Student Council) 1

Skills

Area Knowledge (Ohtori Academy) 3, Domestic Arts (Cooking) 2, Etiquette (Upper Class) 1

INDEX

About Revolutionary Girl Utena 2
Advice for the Game Master 85
Anime Influences on Utena, Literary and 70
Anthy Himemiya 58
Anthy Himemiya Character Sheet 89
"Attributes, New" 87

BESM and Revolutionary Girl Utena 82
Big Eyes, Small Mouth 81

Castle Where Eternity Dwells, Episode 9: 36
Character Sheet, Anthy Himemiya 89
Character Sheet, Jury Arisugawa 92
Character Sheet, Kozue Kaoru 95
Character Sheet, Kyoichi Saionji 91
Character Sheet, Miki "Mickey" Kaoru 93
Character Sheet, Mitsuru Tsuwabuki 95
Character Sheet, Nanami Kiryuu 94
Character Sheet, Nanami's Minions 94
Character Sheet, Touga Kiryuu 90
Character Sheet, Utena Tenjou 88
Character Sheet, Wakaba Shinohara 95
Characters of Revolutionary Girl Utena 84
Chu-Chu 74
Closing Theme: "Truth" 55
Cosmology of Revolutionary Girl Utena 82
Curried High Trip, Episode 8: 32

Dios, Soul of 75
Dios, the Soul of 85
Dios, the Sword of 85
Dormitory 77
Duel for the Rose Bride, Soul Combat and the 84
Dueling Arena, The 77

End of the World 74
Episode 1: The Rose Bride 4
Episode 2: For Whom the Rose Smiles 8
Episode 3: On The Night of the Ball 12
Episode 4: The Sunlit Garden Prelude 16
Episode 5: The Sunlit Garden Finale 20
Episode 6: Take Care, Miss Nanami 24
Episode 7: Unfulfilled Jury 28
Episode 8: Curried High Trip 32
Episode 9: Castle Where Eternity Dwells 36
Episode 10: Nanami's Precious Thing 40
Episode 11: Gracefully Cruel —
The One Who Picks the Flower 44
Episode 12: For Friendship, Perhaps 48
Episode 13: Tracing a Path 52
Episode Guide 3

Fencing Room, The 78
For Friendship, Perhaps, Episode 12: 48
For Whom the Rose Smiles, Episode 2: 8

Game Master, Advice for the 85
Gracefully Cruel — The One Who Picks the Flower,
Episode 11: 44

Items of Power 85

Jury Arisugawa 64
Jury Arisugawa Character Sheet 92

Kendo Room, The 78
Kensei Abilities, New 87
Kiryuu Mansion, The 79
Kozue Kaoru 72
Kozue Kaoru Character Sheet 95
Kyoichi Saionji 62
Kyoichi Saionji Character Sheet 91

Literary and Anime Influences on Utena 70

Miki "Mickey" Kaoru 66
Miki "Mickey" Kaoru Character Sheet 93
Mitsuru Tsuwabuki 73
Mitsuru Tsuwabuki Character Sheet 95

Nanami Kiryuu 68
Nanami Kiryuu Character Sheet 94
Nanami's Minions 75
Nanami's Minions Character Sheet 94
Nanami's Precious Thing, Episode 10: 40
New Attributes 87
New Kensei Abilities 87
New Skills 86

Ohtori Academy, The 79
On The Night of the Ball, Episode 3: 12
Opening Theme: "Revolution 55

Places, Setting and 77

Revolutionary Girl Utena and Role-Playing 81
Revolutionary Girl Utena Closing Theme: "Truth 55
Revolutionary Girl Utena Credits 76
Revolutionary Girl Utena Opening Theme: "Revolution 55
Revolutionary Girl Utena, About 2
Revolutionary Girl Utena, and BESM 82
Revolutionary Girl Utena, Characters of 84
Revolutionary Girl Utena, Cosmology of 82
Role-Playing, Revolutionary Girl Utena and 81
Rose Bride, Soul Combat and the Duel for the 84
Rose Garden, The 79

Setting and Places 77
Shadow Girls, The 75
Skills, New 86
Soul Combat and the Duel for the Rose Bride 84
Soul of Dios 75
Soul of Dios, The 85
Student Council Tower, The 78
Student Council, The 80
Suzuki, Yamada and Tanaka 74
Sword of Dios, The" 85

Take Care, Miss Nanami, Episode 6: 24
The Rose Bride, Episode 1:" 4
The Sunlit Garden Finale, Episode 5: 20
The Sunlit Garden Prelude, Episode 4: 16
Touga Kiryuu 60
Touga Kiryuu Character Sheet 90
Tracing a Path, Episode 13: 52

Unfulfilled Jury, Episode 7: 28
Utena Tenjou 56
Utena Tenjou Character Sheet 88
Utena, Literary and Anime Influences on 70

Wakaba Shinohara 71
Wakaba Shinohara Character Sheet 95